Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-020
Tuesday
2 February 1993

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FBIS-LAT-93-020 *2 February 1993*

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Cuba

Cuba Turning to Belgium, France for Nuclear Help

OW3101054593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Cuban Ambassador to Japan Eduardo Delgado [name as received] said Sunday the completion of Cuba's first nuclear power plant would be difficult because his country is short of money since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Delgado told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that about 150 million dollars are needed to complete the nuclear power station project, but he did not make a request for financial help from Japan.

The ambassador, however, said the amount is for the construction of a safe facility and that Cuba plans to import the equipment from Belgium or France because Russia can not provide it.

He said his country is asking Russia to guarantee the supply of uranium on a long-term basis.

"If the project is completed, the plant would be able to provide 10 percent of the domestic demand for electricity," he said.

Cuba suspended the construction of its nuclear power plant in Juragua near the southern central city of Cienfuegos in 1990. The Cuban government originally planned to start operating the plant in the late 1980s with assistance from the Soviet Union.

Commentary Urges Renegotiation of Foreign Debt

PA3101182293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Cuba owes approximately $6.5 billion. As of 1986, a shortage of foreign exchange forced the country to suspend payment of its obligations, but the Cuban authorities are trying to renegotiate the island's debt.

Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of the National Bank of Cuba, said recently in Havana that the island is trying to establish an agreement to reschedule payments, if it can secure new money to finance its trade.

It is obvious Cuba cannot pay its obligations without receiving something in return because its economy would collapse. Its economy has already been burdened by the disappearance of its traditional sources of credit in the dismantled socialist camp. In addition to this complication, is the intensification of the economic, financial, and trade blockade by the United States and the 1986 decision by creditor countries and banks to not grant Cuba loans equal to the size of the payments the island is to make.

The renegotiation of the Cuban debt began during the first half of the 1980's and lasted until the 1986 break with creditors grouped in the so-called Club of Paris.

The amount of foreign exchange reaching the Cuban treasury is still small. Several factors have to do with this, including the prohibition to do business with U.S. dollars and denial of access to international credit institutions.

Another negative element is the intensification of the U.S. blockade, which is aimed at blocking Cuba's broad horizons in priority sectors for the island, such as tourism, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry.

The island's trade transactions are being negatively affected by the so-called Torricelli bill, which includes the prohibition on ships entering U.S. ports for 180 days after docking at Cuban ports.

In addition to this, Cuba must pay $7 more for each ton of oil imported than it would have paid under normal conditions, when it previously received oil from the defunct Soviet Union.

These facts limit the country's financial capabilities and its opportunities to pay its debts. Therefore, a rescheduling of debt payments and more flexibility from creditors in granting fresh credits are still imperative.

Raul Castro Presides Over Military Ceremony

FL0202140093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] In Guantanamo, Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], presided over the military review that kicked off the Defense Preparation Year for 1993 in the Eastern Army's territory. In the presence of first secretaries of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] for the eastern provinces, including Camaguey Province; leaders of large units; provincial general staffs of this Army's territory; and a large number of Guantanamo Province's people, several groups representing different FAR and [Minint] Ministry of Interior military units showed off their military deportment.

Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, chief of the Eastern Army, said Guantanamo was not the site of this military ceremony by chance; the efforts made and the results obtained by the combatants, workers, and militiamen of this land merit this acknowledgement. He also gave special congratulations to the officers and soldiers of the border brigade, who never sleep.

[Begin Espinosa recording] I want to tell you we have fullest confidence in the men and women of this army and its Guantanamo detachment, which will know how to defend the flag of socialism regardless of what it may cost them. [end recording]

In his speech, Raul Castro stressed the positive assessment that resulted from the Minfar's [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] inspection of the Eastern Army, and the meritorious effort made by the builders of the Via Mulata, the entire 236 km of which are now passable. The road runs through Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, and Guantanamo Provinces. This thrust fits in with the one being made by Guantanamo's workers under the leadership of the PCC. He said that in the second half of 1992, these workers grabbed the bull by the horns in tuber and vegetable production.

[Begin Castro recording] This is only the first challenge. However, the same attention and thrust will be required in order to increase grain production—grains for human consumption and, in the longer run, to help produce in that way the different kinds of animal protein. That is why I let pass no opportunity to preach that beans are as important as guns, or even more so.

The imperialists are now playing the card of trying to crush us through hunger. They know the price they would have to pay were they to try to solve the so-called Cuban problem by other means. Now, they would like to crush us through hunger; destabilize us by means of their criminal embargo, which has recently been intensified through the so-called Torricelli Law; and create conditions for a so-called humanitarian military intervention, a criminal and cynical mode of conduct of these shameful times of a unipolar world.

The most recent punitive actions taken by the imperialists against different nations are attempts to legalize the odious green berets of the elite troops, or the helmets of the Marines, under the mantle of illegitimate UN Security Council resolutions. Another variation in fashion is the deployment of the UN blue helmets, a deployment being used more and more improperly.

As far as we are concerned, we are not at all worried. Let anyone coming to this country armed—regardless of what flag he may come under, be it the Yankee flag or the UN flag—be informed that he will first have to grab us one by one, but by the points of our bayonets. And there are millions of us! [applause] [end recording]

Castro noted that for this reason, the strategic nature of the food program makes this task one of the cornerstones of the nation's military preparedness.

[Begin Castro recording] Despite all the difficulties you know about, and the brutal cutoff of supplies, in the military sphere the nation's defensive capacity is stable, following the indispensable adjustments we were able to make earlier, gradually, having foreseen the special period in time. That is why the country's defensive capacity is stable and constantly being improved. We are continuing without interruption to prepare the theater of military operations, especially the construction of civil defense tunnels and other types of tunnels. The entire country has the necessary means to defend itself, prudently obtained ahead of time, along with the industrial capacity attained for producing light weaponry. Speaking specifically of the province where we are now, Guantanamo has what it needs to have; that is, everything necessary to solve for itself, by themselves, by the Guantanamo residents alone, any military problem that may arise in this area.

It is no coincidence that given the reactionary administrations that have governed the United States for 12 years, since the first term of the Reagan administration it was decided to make an additional effort so that by this last five-year period, to paraphrase the great and immortal Nicolas Guillen, Guantanamo would have everything it needed to have in weaponry. [applause]

We never forget—and I think it is part of my duties to remember this every day, even if only for a moment—that we have a dagger stuck into the country's side, a few kilometers to the south of this Mariana Grajales Square where we are now. We have not lost hope of getting rid of that dagger in a peaceful and civilized way. As you know, the social regime of our state and our own military doctrine establish that we will never be the aggressors. We will never fire the first shot. If unfortunately we are attacked some day, we will defend ourselves fiercely. Then, the ground will shake, but the people of the eastern provinces will never shake. [applause] The people of the eastern provinces will not shake, and neither will the Cuban people, from one end of the country to another. [applause]

There are many subjects I would like to mention, but I do not want to speak at length, in order to comply with what I said at the beginning. Lastly, Guantanamo Province gave extraordinary proof, along with Santiago de Cuba Province, of almost total support for the Revolution by going to the ballot boxes in December and using the ballot to vote a resounding yes for Cuba. No government, social or political regime in the world has the enormous backing of the electorate which was expressed throughout the country, and even more so in this eastern region.

So I congratulate the citizens and mass organizations that have organized and carried out this electoral process. It is the most profoundly democratic, with no room for demagogy, control over the mass media, or the power of money. In Cuba, as has already been said, one's biography, one's record of service to the community and the nation, are the only references that lead the voters to exercise their right to elect their representatives, as will happen in the upcoming 24 February elections for delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies to the National Assembly, our highest body of government.

I am sure that the people of Guantanamo, as well as those of the other provinces of the Eastern Army, like all the Cuban people from Maisi to San Antonio, will once more vote a yes for Cuba. [applause] The exalted figure of Mariana that overlooks this square demands of us, as she said when she sent the youngest of her children to war: Stand tall! Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

Ambassador Perez Defends Human Rights Record

FL3001020493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Jose Perez Novoa, the Cuban ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, gave a news conference today after his participation in the regional conference on human rights in Costa Rica.

[Begin Perez recording] I repeat, we think that the declaration is a very serious contribution by Latin America and the Caribbean to the international conference, and it is also a very wide-ranging declaration which reaffirms the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. [end recording]

Perez Novoa added that the regional meeting was a success, and that the Costa Rican Government created all the conditions for holding it. The foreign media focused their questions on (?the alleged violation) of human rights in Cuba, which is a vendetta organized by the United States, according to Perez Novoa.

[Begin Perez recording] Human rights are not violated in Cuba. There are few countries that could show a history of human rights like that of Cuba, even in such special and peculiar situations as our country is currently undergoing, with a 30-year embargo by the United States, with the Torricelli Law, and with very strong pressures, through economic coercion, on governments not to do business or trade with Cuba. In spite of those difficulties, we try to comply 100 percent—we cannot say 100 percent, but we try to comply 100 percent—with all human rights. There is no practice or policy of violating human rights here. [end recording]

UN Ambassador Comments on Angolan Situation

FL3001161093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations [UN] Alcibiades Hidalgo has called on the UN to keep its commitments in Angola. Speaking during the discussions of a report by the UN secretary general on the UN's inspection mission in Angola, the Cuban diplomat said that to withdraw the members of that mission would constitute recognition of the fact that the peace process has failed in Angola. Hidalgo also pointed out that it was the Angolan Government that requested the presence of the UN representatives in Angola, to contribute to the fulfillment of the peace agreements signed in 1991 in Portugal. On the other hand, Hidaldo complained that UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] unleashed a spiral of escalating violence in Angola following its defeat at the polls last September; he warned that there could be an increase in foreign interference in that southern African country. [passage omitted]

Finnish Parliamentary Solidarity Group Visits

FL0202005493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The purpose of the parliamentary Finland-Cuba friendship group's visit to Cuba is to promote friendly relations and better mutual understanding in the economic, sports, and cultural spheres. In talks with National Assembly President Juan Escalona, Mr. (Enzio Laene), head of the group and a representative of the leftist league, said relations between Cuba and Finland are going very well. He said Cuba has many friends in the [Finnish] Parliament, which has 200 members and represents 10 parties. The Finland-Cuba Friendship Association, the first in the world to be formed, is doing serious work with a view to expanding solidarity. It has sent brigades of volunteer workers and collects funds for material aid to the island.

[Begin unidentified man recording] For our part, we try to increase efforts to expand the work of solidarity with Cuba (?in) Finland. [end recording]

The parliamentary Finland-Cuba friendship group delegation is composed of representatives of the Center, Green, and Social Democratic parties. It will visit sites of economic and social interest.

Ukrainian Parliament Sends Thanks to Fidel Castro

FL0202021293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] A letter sent today to Fidel Castro by representatives of the Ukranian Parliament expresses their thanks and deep gratitude to the Cuban people and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for the help given to heal the victims of the Chernobyl accident. The letter signed by Mrs. B. Cherevko, a member of the Ukranian Parliament Presidium and director of one of its commissions, stresses the work being done in Cuba to heal the children affected by radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear plant. The letter expresses the desire that the Cuban president may enjoy good health and be successful in his creative efforts on behalf of Cuba's prosperity.

Renowned U.S. Doctor Presents Medical Donation

FL0102222393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2043 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] We receive this donation not as a gesture of charity but as a humane act. Dr. Esmildo Gutierrez, the secretary general of the Cuban Red Cross, made this statement in Havana when he received the donation presented by renowned U.S. pediatrician Benjamin Spock. The donation consists of $75,000 worth of special antibiotics and dental supplies which will be distributed between the William Soler Pediatric Hospital and the pediatric clinic located on H and 21st Streets.

The funds with which the donation was bought were collected in 41 U.S. states, among the private sector and institutions, and arrived in Cuba by permit of the U.S. Treasury Department.

Professor Spock expressed his surprise at the fact that Cuba has full medical coverage for its people, while in 1975 it had only one doctor per 1,000 people.

Castro Meets With Doctor

FL0202131393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpt] President Fidel Castro spoke at length about pediatrics and other topics with the renowned American doctor, Benjamin Spock, who is visiting Havana at the head of the U.S.-Cuban Medical Project, which has just made an important donation of medicine and equipment worth $82,000 to the Cuban Red Cross. [passage omitted]

Announcer Notes Possibility of Increased Outages

FL0102222493 Havana Radio Ciudad de la Habana in Spanish 1950 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Radio Ciudad de la Habana was off the air most of the day. At 1950 it resumed broadcasting with the following comments about power outages]

[Excerpt] We have information from the TRIBUNA newspaper, dated 31 January. Yesterday's TRIBUNA reports that the programmed nine-hour power outages per week in each municipality, excluding Saturday and Sunday, might continue over the next seven days. The Electric Enterprise of Havana City Province has alerted residents that despite plans, unexpected events like generator breakdowns could occur, making emergency outages necessary.

The populace's energy consumption has remained at the highest level of the allotted amount for the province. This has made it impossible to eliminate the power outages. I have already given you the time for today's power outages. [passage omitted]

'Breakdowns' Effect Service Nationwide

FL0202022893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Electric Union reports that since yesterday, Sunday [31 January]—including today—electric service has been severely affected throughout Cuba due to breakdowns [averias] at the Antonio Guiteras Power Plant in Matanzas and Antonio Maceo Power Plant in Santiago de Cuba. These problems, along with fuel limitations at the Cienfuegos Power Plant, have brought about this deficit in [electric] power. People are working non-stop to solve these breakdowns. This situation should be resolved today [1 February]; therefore, the schedule of outages should go back to normal as of tomorrow [2 February].

The Electric Union apologizes for the inconveniences that may occur.

Pastors for Peace Deliver Medicine Donation

FL0102024693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Representatives of the U.S. Pastors for Peace movement have arrived at Juan Gualberto Gomez International Airport in Varadero on a flight from Cancun, Mexico, with a donation of medicine valued at approximately $20,000. The religious representatives from six U.S. states form the delegation headed by Reverend Lucius Walker, the executive director of the Ecumenical Foundation for Humanitarian Action, and Thomas Hansen, the director of the Pastors for Peace Project. Hansen, in a statement to reporters, stressed the great support the movement has received among the population of his country, and the steadfast commitment of its members to continue fighting the U.S. embargo against Cuba, which he described as a crime against the population and a breach of international law.

This new action by Pastors for Peace is a continuation of the caravan which last December defied the U.S. embargo against Cuba and brought approximately 14 tons of supplies basically for health and education. The medicine brought on this trip responds to requests by Cuban health authorities and Havana hospital institutions through the Martin Luther King Memorial Center. The pastor of this center, Rev. Raul Suarez, was on hand to greet the visitors.

It was announced that Pastors for Peace is organizing a new friendship caravan which will tour the United States, will arrive in Cuba toward the end of July, and will be much larger than the one in December. Their goal is to collect 100 tons [words indistinct] the Cuban soil.

Attorney General Notes Cattle-Rustling Prevention

FL2901215693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2046 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Attorney General Dr. Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa has noted the work done in 1992 by the public prosecutor's office in Florida Municipality, Camaguey Province, and the local agricultural-livestock enterprise to eliminate cattle rustling. De la Cruz stated that because of its impact and systematic nature, this work should be spread to regions throughout the country where livestock raising is done.

During a working visit to Florida Municipality, the attorney general of the republic noted the integrated effort by the local public prosecutor's office in maintaining socialist legality. In 1992, that office showed 85.7 percent effectiveness, an unprecedented result in the province. Of the audits performed in 1992, 18 were praised for their economic importance to the state and the party on the national level.

Social Security Statistics Show Increased Benefits

FL3001185393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1710 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Over the past 33 years and despite economic difficulties, Cuba has managed to increase more than 13 times over the amount of money it spends for social security benefits, which in 1992 alone came to 1.5 billion pesos. The vast difference from what was the case in 1959 is shown by the data of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, which shows that in the year before the January triumph, such payments came to a little over 114 million pesos. Today, 1,269,000 people are receiving retirement benefits and pensions, aid which, three decades ago, only some 154,000 workers from certain sectors received, and the amounts of which were many times considered tiny.

At the same time, 32,000 elderly persons are receiving social assistance, to which all the nation's inhabitants are also entitled.

Public Prosecutor Audit Reveals Economic Crimes

FL3001173993 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The public prosecutor's office in San Jose de las Lajas Municipality, Havana Province, conducted an audit at the province's collection/distribution center, and the audit revealed economic losses totaling over 100,000 pesos. According to information from lawyer Maribel Castano of the public prosecutor's office in Havana, this state establishment, which collects and distributes agricultural products, failed to meet, by 85 percent, the plan for [product] deliveries to the population for the period from January to August 1992. Out of the total, 51 percent [of the produce] was diverted to different establishments and to other provinces.

It was also established that in an 8-month period, the different agricultural products outlets [agromercados] belonging to the collection/distribution center in question returned over 160,000 pounds of various agricultural products found to be in poor condition. However, these products were found to have been entered in the documentation audited as having been delivered to the population.

Also, it was established that over 65,000 pounds of agricultural products failed to be received at the said collection/distribution center, and no one knows where they went. It was also established that a balance of over 54,000 pesos' worth of missing inventory was canceled, without taking into consideration that which had been established by the State Finance Committee.

In its report, the public prosecutor's office in San Jose de las Lajas Municipality, asked that one leader and three workers be definitively dismissed; that three leaders be given fewer responsibilities [la democion de cargos a]; and that one worker be fined.

The department of criminal proceedings at the public prosecutor's office in Havana Province also received a report regarding the detection of suspected crimes of failure to carry out the duty of protecting property at state economic units and of improper use of material and financial resources.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 29 Jan

FL3001001493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television on 29 January.

The yearly award for exports, awarded by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, was given to the Ministry of the Sugar Industry for 1992. The sugar industry contributed 7 million tons of sugar in 1992 despite limited resources. The year-end report of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce states that it has more than 180 members and that more than 276 accredited foreign firms appear on its roster.

Camaguey Province has more than 100 biogas plants as part of a process to replace oil. Seventy five of these plants are currently operating with wastes such as those produced by the sugar mills. Minas Municipality has been outstanding in the use of this energy with the use of methane gas in workers' cafeterias. The greatest consumption takes place at the Noel Fernandez Agricultural-Industrial Sugar Complex. Its biogas plant produces more than 178 cubic meters of gas daily. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT]

Benito Casal, a researcher from the university in Holguin, is making blades for KTP-1 cane combines. The blades usually last only two or three days and are normally purchased abroad. However, the blades being made by Casal at present last three times as long, and he has already delivered over 500 blades to the Lopez Pena Mill in Holguin Province. Benito Casal is a candidate for delegate of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government.

There is a new diesel-powered bus-train [ferrobus] in Sancti Spiritus Province that runs between Zaza del Medio and Tunas de Zaza. It can carry over 400 passengers and is made up of four regular coaches and one reserve coach and built out of railway car platforms and scrapped bus bodies. It makes two runs daily, at peak traffic hours in the morning and afternoon. Tunas de Zaza is an important economic centerbecause it has a fishing port, a lobster-processing plant, and a shrimp-farming station. This bus-train is the third of its kind built by transportation sector workers of Sancti Spiritus Province. There is already one running between Cabaiguan and the provincial capital, and another running from Trinidad to Condado. [Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 1255 GMT]

New electrical service facilities have been built in Las Tunas Province. These new installations have made it

possible to increase services 50 times over, compared with the services existing in 1958. Over 2,000 km of lines were laid in Las Tunas, and there are now 86,000 more consumers.

The workshop at the Guillermo Moncada Agroindustrial Complex in Abreus Municipality, Cienfuegos Province, is recycling and repairing vehicle batteries, which are sorely lacking in Cuba. The workshop in charge of producing bicycle tire inner tubes at the Nelson Fernandez Estevez Tire Enterprise in San Jose de Las Lajas, Havana Province, is producing an average of 5,000 innertubes per day. [Havana Radio Reloj Network Spanish 1500 GMT]

Council of Ministers Vice President Jaime Crombet has inaugurated Pinar del Rio Province's second biological products factory, at the Federico Engels Pre-University Level Institute of Exact Sciences, the first in Cuba to operate at this kind of center.

A technical advisory council has been formed at the railroad-track soldering plant in Placetas Muncipality, Villa Clara Province—the only such plant in the country—with a view to reducing fuel consumption, solving problems related to services, and studying the difficulties that have a direct bearing on production. The 12-member council is made up of members of the ANIR, National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts, and the Technical Youth Brigades, specialists, and technicians. The council has already modified the rods in water taps with one-half inch pipes, thereby saving 475.2 liters of water of which used to be lost in a single day. The water magnetizer that prevents having to stop operations due to buildups in the pipes from the water circulating in the soldering machine constitutes another achievement. The soldering machine, which produces six joints per hour at a value of 548.16 pesos per unit, saves 3,288.96 pesos per hour by using this magnetizer. [Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 1800 GMT]

Antigua and Barbuda

Backbencher Suspended for Opposing Amendment

FL0202000393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2009 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Feb 1, CANA—The ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) has suspended dissident backbencher Hugh Marshall, pending a report from a disciplinary committee, the ALP said on Monday. The decision was taken at a party executive meeting last Friday following calls by party chairman Adolphous Freeland and Prime Minister Vere Bird for Marshall to be disciplined after he opposed an amendment to the Public Utilities Act in Parliament last Monday and raised questions about the integrity of Public Utilities Minister Robin Yearwood.

Marshall, a first vice-chairman of the party and a former trade minister, has been barred "from all further meetings of the executive and also from exercising his function as an officer of the party," the ALP said in a statement.

Marshall was not immediately available for comment on the development, but he had thrown out a challenge to party chairman Freeland last week to proceed with his threat to discipline him.

The Bahamas

Soldiers Guard Power Plant Against 'Vandalism'

FL0202001093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2130 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Feb 1, CANA—Bahamas Defence Force soldiers were called out Monday to guard a Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) power plant after the state company, amidst protests from employees, complained about "a disturbing pattern of vandalism."

Members of the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union, who are demanding a 12-percent pay increase from the company, blocked the entrance to the Clifton Pier Power Plant. The defence force soldiers, armed with Uzi submachine guns and an AK-47 assault rifle, were only allowing workers inside the plant who carried the proper identification.

Union president Samuel Mitchell instructed his members to sit in front of the entrance and block people from entering or leaving the premises. He said the workers would stay off the job until the soldiers were removed.

Peter Bethel, general manager of the BEC, warned Bahamians in a radio broadcast of possible power blackouts. He said BEC workers were putting down their tools at 5 PM as part of a work-to-rule, and were not available to do overtime emergency work. He also said that from Monday to Wednesday of last week, the tyres of 27 vehicles were flattened, including two private vehicles owned by workers who had decided to work overtime.

Bethel said he had put additional security measures in place at key company locations and installations in an attempt to minimise the effects of what he said was proposed illegal activity. He also said the BEC would not give in to "unreasonable" wage demands which would have "serious financial repercussions, bearing in mind BEC's enormous debt burden and its efforts to protect jobs."

Bethel said salaries and benefits of BEC employees already exceeded those of most of the country's workers.

Dominica

Caribbean Rights Group Condemns Immigration Policy

FL3101204493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 31, CANA—A regional feminist organisation has charged the Dominica Government with having an immigration policy that amounts to harassment of visitors with Rastafarian hairstyles. Local representative of the Caribbean Association of Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) Josephine Dublin said persons associated with her organisation who visit Dominica on official business were singled out for unfair treatment because of their hairstyles.

Dublin late last year took issue with immigration authorities when a well-known Caribbean female activist with dreadlocks was delayed for three hours at Canefield Airport here. Government denies a policy of harassing individuals with Rastafarian lifestyles exists. Dublin told CANA at the weekend recent incidents pointed to a critical need for a review of immigration policy, which was recently condemned by the regional human rights network, Caribbean Rights.

"I find specifically that so-called policy is very discriminatory in essence because it is also hurting persons we consider should be free to travel, and it's also hurting a particular set of persons, persons who have a certain lifestyle," Dublin said in reference to Rastafarians.

"What the government is saying is that persons who carry locks are associated with drugs. But what about those who do not carry locks, but are still caught with drugs. What we are saying is that this kind of policy is very discriminatory in nature," the CAFRA official added. She suggested that persons with "dreadlocks" were singled out for searches because this hairstyle was associated with drugs.

"It's really, really hurting persons we are working with as a development organisation," the CAFRA representative said.

Government maintains that immigration officials must be allowed a certain discretion to decide who is or is not a bona fide visitor.

Dominican Republic

President Recalls Diplomats in Haiti

FL0102160793 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Dominican authorities have not, to date, given much explanation for recalling the persons working at the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince. They did not give a reason for this decision. After Ambassador Jose Del Carmen Acosta, the military attache and the cultural attache were ordered to leave the embassy on 29 January. Sources close to the Dominican Republic said Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer gave this order, but they did not give more details.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral, who told how the United States would like to get information from the Dominican official on the Haitian political file, advised that the Dominican Government has decided to deploy more military forces on the border between the two countries. He, however, did not make any connection between the president's order and the presence of those military forces on the Haitian-Dominican border.

On 28 January, after a meeting with a Nicaraguan official, Mr. Balaguer, in speaking about the measure taken against Haiti by the OAS, said that the solution being sought to the problem of this country should come in the form of assistance that the foreign countries should send to the Haitian people. Balaguer is one of those who have always criticized the embargo the OAS adopted against Haiti after the overthrow of the 16 December 1990 power.

Haiti

New Senators Sworn In; Senate Officers Elected

FL0102234693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Italicized passages in French]

[Text] The nine senators who were elected in the 18 January elections were sworn in and installed in their posts during a ceremony at the Senate of the Republic on 31 January. Senator Ebrane Cadet, who has temporarily presided over the Senate of the Republic and who conducted the ceremony during which his new colleagues were sworn in, explained to the senators how difficult the work is that awaits them. He condemned the behavior of those who wish death on those who do not share their political views.

[Begin Cadet recording] *There is no doubt that the 1987 Constitution has laid the foundation for a representative, participative democracy. It means to put an end to the dictatorial practice that has too often haunted the minds of our leaders. Nevertheless—and let us say it at once—application of the formal principles of democracy does not necessarily imply that there is democracy. Fundamental values must especially, first and foremost, be respected. Because of that, it is obvious that the upholding of any state of (word indistinct) inevitably goes though the knowledge and practice of the great traditional democratic options. [applause] Democracy cannot be functional or fruitful without a spirit of tolerance. To be wrong or right is the privilege of all men. Democracy needs an open mind as a favorable framework for its full bloom. One must also learn to cultivate mutual respect. It is an aberration and even an absurdity to want to eliminate someone because he has opinions different than one's own. Voyeurism and*

robotism are two concepts to which no lucid and coherent democrat can subscribe in any way.

The nine new senators who were sworn in are Eugene Osny, Louisne Gilles, Yves Rousseau, Serge Gilles, Dejean Belizaire, Amos Andre, Romel Manigat, Gabriel Ancion, and Mrs. Margarethe Martin.

After the new senators were sworn in, a provisional office was set up *in order to hold elections for the a new office to lead the Senate of the Republic. After the elections, the Senate was formed as follows: Thomas Eddy Dupiton, president; Gabriel Ancion, vice- president; Ebrane Cadet, first secretary; Serge Joseph, second secretary; and Julio Larosiliere, quaestor. According to the rules of the Senate of the Republic, this office is elected for a period of two years.*

It is to be recalled that on the evening of 25 January, the 13 senators who are members of the Constitutional Anti-Corruption Bloc established a new office to lead the Senate. That office is composed of Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis, president; Bernard Sansaricq, vice- president; Jean-Robert Martinez, first secretary; Yvon Gislain, second secretary; and Rony Mondestin, questor. The senators explained that this decision is to unblock the Senate, which has not been able to work for a some time due to the attitude of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] members. Sen. Cadet, first secretary in the former office, signed a press release reminding concerned people of Article 9-1 of the Senate internal rules providing for new members to be elected to the Senate office every two years. Sen. Cadet, who explained that elections for the choice of a new office cannot be held before the new senators enter the parliament, said he is sorry to note that some colleagues have decided to do all they can to worsen the country's situation so foreigners can come to occupy it.

/The installation of the new senators and the new Senate office took place in the presence of 17 senators on 31 January. Many of the senators, members of the Constitutional Anti-Corruption Bloc, were not present in the diplomatic lounge of the legislative chamber where this installation ceremony took place. The new president of the Senate of the Republic, Sen. Thomas Eddy Dupiton, explained why it took place in the diplomatic lounge of the Legislative Palace. He announced that they will soon meet in national assembly and called on the senators of the [Constitutional] Anti-Corruption Bloc to join forces with those at the head of the Senate of the Republic. Let us listen to Sen. Dupiton.

It is not by accident that we find ourselves here this morning when we should be sitting in the room that the treasurer of the Senate has to his credit. But we are living in an unreasonable time. We all entered as legislators. We do not all leave as such. You know that some have lost. Today, the Senate room has been taken hostage. To avoid finding ourselves hostile brothers, wisdom and God guided us here. [word indistinct] I want to believe that they who are upstairs enjoy their mandate to serve the Haitian people. They will understand whether they are really serving the Haitian people upstairs when foreigners ask us to tidy up the house. We should begin joining forces against the common danger. I believe they will understand very shortly so they can return to reason to serve the nation properly. [end recording]

Reaction to Pending Arrival of UN/OAS Envoy

Envoy Expected 1 Feb

FL0102220593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The UN/OAS envoy Dante Caputo is expected this afternoon at around 2100 GMT in Port-au-Prince. The government authorities are already at the International Airport to welcome the diplomat. Meanwhile, a demonstration has begun in front of the International Airport. The demonstrators are protesting intervention, foreign occupation.

Protesters Claim 'Foreign Interference'

FL0102163293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 01 Feb 93

[Excerpts] A demonstration was held on 31 January at the International Airport in Port-au-Prince: no to intervention; no to interference. The announcement of the arrival in Port-au-Prince of the UN/OAS emissary provoked the gathering of several hundred people in front of the International Airport building. This demonstration was held under the protection of the police and in a festive atmosphere. Rothchild Francois, Junior filed a report:

[Begin Rothchild recording] Demonstrators gathered in front of the Port-au-Prince Airport to protest the scheduled arrival of Dante Caputo in Port-au-Prince. Through this demonstration, the demonstrators were saying no to foreign interference, no to occupation, and no also to the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In this gathering that took place in a carnival atmosphere, the participants were displaying placards bearing nationalistic slogans. T-shirts marked Long Live Haiti Free and Independent, No to Occupation were given away by the organizers. [passage omitted].

This demonstration comes less than a week after the publication by the government of a document regarding a UN and OAS international mission in Haiti. A long debate on national sovereignty followed. The government and other groups, such as lawyers, denounce a certain desire of foreigners to place the country under trusteeship. The sectors close to Father Aristide do not share this opinion, as shown by the positions taken by the National Congress of Democratic Movements [CONACOM] and the National Front For Change and Democracy [FNCD].[end recording]

The UN/OAS emissary did not arrive in Port-au-Prince as scheduled on 31 January. Dante Caputo will arrive in the next few days, according to diplomatic sources.

Group Writes Counterproposal for Envoy

FL0102210493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Three days of discussions have taken place regarding the OAS/UN civilian mission. The government had gathered a working group of 25 members from various sectors at the National Palace. During these three days, the participants studied the file listing the points of reference by the UN/OAS civilian mission. Five representatives of the private sector, eight parliamentarians, two representatives of the episcopal conference, a member of the Evangelical Church Council, and some members of the government reviewed the document, the anti-nationalistic character of which had been publicly denounced by Prime Minister Marc Bazin. As a result of the discussions, the document was revised and replaced by a text written by the working group. The document will be proposed to the UN emissary, Dante Caputo, who is expected this week in Port-au-Prince.

Lawyers Condemn UN/OAS Document

FL0102220393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] A legal committee has gathered the country's lawyers to a meeting in the Palace of Justice, scheduled today for 1600 GMT, to discuss the latest developments in the crisis. This committee of lawyers posed this invitation to have a word of law on the UN/OAS document regarding the envoy of an observers mission in Haiti. The committee of lawyers, which condemns the conditions imposed by the UN/OAS Envoy Dante Caputo, believes the document constitutes a negation of the people's rights and the Haitian state.

Episcopal Conference Favors Support

FL0102220693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] favors a Haitian solution benefitting from international support. CEH is calling for fast negotiations with the UN and OAS regarding the terms of reference of the agreement to send the civilian mission, in order to brush aside any perspectives of trusteeship of Haiti.

CONACOM Defends Mission

FL0102213993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The National Congress of Democratic Movements, CONACOM, after analyzing the documents to which Mr. Bazin has referred, states that this mission will come only to observe the situation of human rights in Haiti and make recommendations to whom it concerns. CONACOM asserts that it is not interfering in Haiti's affairs, but rather that the entire international community through the UN and OAS, of which Haiti is a member, is bringing its solidarity to the Haitian people to help it return to a democratic regime.

Right now, continues the CONACOM satement, a similar mission is participating in the reestablishment of peace in El Salvador and El Salvador will not be losing its independence. CONACOM maintains that this de facto prime minister continues to deny this truth in his efforts to manipulate public opinion and to block the negotiation process, thus conserving his anticonstitutional power. CONACOM finally denounces those who do not have the courage to admit they are opposed to the return to constitutional order while they talk about dialogue and negotiations. These people never defend the liberties of the Haitian people, who each day are victims of arbitrary measures.

Jamaica

PNP Holds Talks; Election Speculation Continues

FL3001163093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1536 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 30, CANA—Amidst increasing speculation that general elections will be held in Jamaica soon, the ruling People's National Party (PNP) begun a three-day retreat in Trelawny, Western Jamaica, Friday. The retreat involves party leaders, constituency candidates, and party workers.

Despite protestations by a party spokesman that it is just part of the party's "normal programme," the caucus is being seen as yet another sign that elections constitutionally due by next May will be held early this year. Speculation about an early election has dominated the political scene since late last year, when a Carl Stone poll showed the PNP having completely reversed the trend of the previous two years, to take an 8 percentage point lead in the popularity polls over the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

In recent months both parties have been working feverishly to select candidates for all 60 constituencies. Party spokesman Pat Bellanfanti told CANA that the PNP now has all its candidates in place, "unless something happens at the last minute." The JLP, meanwhile, says 54 candidates have been confirmed.

Bellanfante said all members of Parliament, election candidates, as well as parish councillors, and party organisers were attending the retreat at the Trelawny Beach Hotel to discuss "party business." But he rejected the suggestion that it could signal plans by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to call Jamaicans to the polls.

"This is just part of the party's normal programme," he said.

The electoral office, meantime is working to correct thousands of errors in the voters list. A renumeration exercise is to begin on Monday, for 20,000 people who were inaccurately enumerated and data is now being reprocessed for another 40,000 who were inadvertantly wiped off the preliminary voters' list. The electoral office says the process should be completed and a new list be

ready by the end of February. The Jamaica media has identified March as the most likely date for the election.

St. Christopher and Nevis

France Seeks Improved Ties With OECS Countries

FL3101204293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1529 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Jan 31, CANA—France says it is seeking to improve economic and political relations with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), particularly through its departments in the area, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

This assurance has been given here by St. Lucia-based ambassador Sylvie Alvarez during an official visit to the island. An official release quoted her as saying definite steps were being taken to strengthen such relations by way of these two territorities.

The release added that some of the areas to be addressed were hassle-free travel and joint ventures with French businessmen expressing a desire to invest in the OECS territories. It was indicated that the Dumez Group and Port de Plaisance were showing interest in investing in the south eastern peninsula.

During a call on St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, the visiting envoy expressed satisfaction with the progress of two projects funded by the French Government, expansion of the terminal at Golden Rock Airport, and construction of an athletic stadium. The prime minister indicated that a short list of consultants had been completed and agreement reached on a basic design for the stadium.

The ambassador said a mission from the French Ministry of Development Cooperation would be visiting St. Kitts-Nevis next month to meet with relevant authorities to evaluate the country's national sporting needs.

Sugar Workers Receive Negotiated Wage Increases

FL3101204393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1541 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Jan 31, CANA—Sugar workers in St. Kitts Nevis have been granted a five percent general wage increase for the 1993 crop which is scheduled to start Monday, it has been officially announced here.

A joint statement put out by the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC) and the St. Kitts Nevis Trades and Labour Union (SKNTLU), bargaining agents for the workers, said agreement was reached Friday on most matters related to conditions affecting the operations of the 1993 harvest.

Both parties also agreed on an end-of-crop bonus of five percent, an out-of-crop bonus of four percent, and a Christmas bonus of eight percent. In addition, the SSMC and the union have agreed on a series of production targets aimed at encouraging the workers to reap the entire crop, estimated at 22,000 tonnes, within 19 weeks.

An authoritative source associated with the talks said a total of seven meetings were held culminating in an amicable conclusion Friday afternoon. The SSMC's general manager Desmond Mallalieu and personnel and industrial relations manager, Wentford Rogers, signed for the state-owned corporation while the union's signatories were general secretary Joseph France and his assistant, Fidel O'Flaherty. The signing was witnessed by an official of the Labour Department. This is the second consecutive annual agreement on the start of crop between the corporation and the union without the intervention of government.

Sources said it was understood the recent policy of bringing overseas workers to help with the crop would be implemented this year. The bulk of the expatriate labour will be coming from Guyana with some workers from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. However, the union is maintaining its opposition to the move with Assistant Secretary O'Flaherty stating that enough workers could be found here if they are given the right incentives.

* Meyer on Inequality, Presidential Succession

93CA0046A Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 16 Nov 92 p 73

[Report by Oscar Hinojosa on conversation with Lorenzo Meyer]

[Text] Dr. Lorenzo Meyer is still remarkably capable of being astonished at 50 years of age, having spent many of those years reading, thinking, and writing. Indeed, this capacity for astonishment is an element of the intellectual work whereby Meyer observes social and historical phenomena astutely until he finds substantive data and facts.

"Although it should not surprise me at my age, one of the most powerful and indelible impressions from my prolonged stays overseas (England, the United States, and Spain) has to do with Mexico's gross social inequality," he said in a conversation about his experiences during a year at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid.

"The brutally unfair income distribution in Mexico does not even remotely resemble that of Spain or even the United States. Living conditions in Spain are light years removed from what we have in Mexico."

Accordingly, returning to Mexico points up once again the worsened quality of life in our country, in contrast to Spain, not because Spaniards possess greater material wealth, which they do, but because of social solidarity (not Pronasol [National Solidarity Program], which is something else), which leads to a relative equality of material living conditions.

"In Spain the gap between social classes is not very obvious. It may be partly the result of a Spanish cultural trait, as those on the bottom are not as submissive and those on top are not as arrogant as in Mexico."

Social Inequality Intensifying

Here, social inequality which emerged with the nation itself, has intensified in recent years as a result of neoliberal policies, the author of "La segunda muerte de la Revolucion Mexicana" [The Second Death of the Mexican Revolution] explained, even if official figures are used to interpret the situation.

We are entitled to think that if in the birthplace of neoliberalism (the United States and England) the official figures, which are more reliable than Mexico's, show a heightening of social inequality, we have no reason to say that the situation is different in Mexico. "Neoliberalism always heightens inequality. This is why Bush was not reelected," he indicated.

As far as Dr. Meyer is concerned, social inequality is "the problem" for Mexico, but he doubts that it will become a decisive factor in the 1994 presidential succession. At least he is convinced that there is no automatic relationship between deep social inequality and the succession.

Mexican history itself offers support for Meyer's reasoning: "Inequality has existed for so long and has been so severe that at times it means nothing in political processes. Decisions are made and unmade without 'underlying Mexico' having anything to do with them," he said.

There is another argument for Meyer's hypothesis: "If the neoliberals do a good job combining their authoritarian bent with the neopopulism of Solidarity and provide a selective response to those zones in which inequality could become a political problem, this may not be a major issue in the succession."

"Poverty and inequality in themselves have not brought about political change. Leadership is needed to transform inequality into political strength. The government is prepared to defuse potential conflicts and has many means to do so, both ethical and unethical, legal and illegal."

Meyer's sabbatical year was also a sabbatical year for his wife, Romana Falcon, who like him is a researcher with the Colegio de Mexico. On a suggestion from a Spanish colleague, they both applied for teaching scholarships. They got them, probably helped by the atmosphere surrounding the 500th anniversary.

It became an absurd or at least odd situation for them. A Mexican had to teach courses on Mexico to Mexicans in Madrid, because Spaniards have little interest in Mexico and in Latin America in general. The interest, rather, is on the part of officialdom; everyone else is looking towards Europe.

Spain's lack of interest in Latin America is also reflected in scant, mistaken, and fanciful historic information, as Meyer learned from the archives and newspaper records of several periods of Mexico's past.

"One finds very little and erroneous information about Latin America. With regard to the Mexican Revolution, for example, the reports that the Spanish newspapers of the day published, which came from London or New York, contain false or mistaken information about places and people.

"If someone wanted to get a fair to middling idea of what was happening in Mexico, he would have to forget about the Spanish press, because it would contain just one chaotic, nonsensical mention."

Today's Spanish press also offers debatable coverage, according to Dr. Meyer, who won the National Journalism Award in 1987 and the Social Sciences Award in 1974.

One example is EL PAIS, a newspaper that is "capable of turning the explosions in Guadalajara into a personal triumph for President Salinas. The Spanish correspondent's approach was always to present the positive side. Over and above officialdom's irresponsibility, which had to be admitted, he emphasized the president's enormous courage in going to Guadalajara, forcing the governor to

resign, and throwing city officials in jail, and then contrasted this with any other possible course of action. Salinas emerged as a leader of enormous character."

Feels That We Do Not Know Where We Are Going

Upon his return from Spain, Meyer also notes that the political situation remains at a standstill. "We do not really know where we are going," he said. But he is pleasantly surprised by the determination of certain segments of Mexican society to invest "a great deal of energy in trying to bring about a change, at least at the regional level, from authoritarianism to something else."

He is astonished at what happened in San Luis Potosi, particularly the fact that society itself thwarted the president's intention of keeping Gonzalo Martinez Corbala in power. This development is very encouraging: civil society restraining presidential power. It holds out some hope.

Meyer grows skeptical, however, when the conversation with EL FINANCIERO turns to the willingness of the top government echelon to democratize.

He is convinced, for example, that the nomination of PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party's] presidential candidate will be decided "as a function of the needs that prevail in the corridors of power, of some groups against others, in the uppermost echelon."

In Meyer's judgment, this decision will be made by the political class, which is still the most important in the country, for several reasons. In the first place, since a high bourgeoisie has not developed in Mexico, no business group is strong enough to assert itself over the political class.

He does not think that the Catholic Church will be involved in the nomination process either. "It must be extremely happy about something that it was not expecting," Meyer argued. The United States will not have an influence either: "This is not the way they exert influence," he explained.

As a result, "they are going to let the Office of President and his inner group play their game."

Nonetheless, unexpected things could happen, and "the strings of power could slip away from them." The economy is one example.

Meyer, one of the most prestigious scholars of the Mexican Revolution, is outraged by the size of Mexico's trade deficit. Indeed, he almost shouts the number: 20 billion pesos [as published].

The central issue of the 1994 succession is the handling of the economy, especially meeting certain expectations. "Inequality is the underlying problem, but the succession will be decided by issues that are on the surface," he stated.

He also feels, however, that political reform is still an item on the agenda of the succession. "I assume that one cannot drag one's feet in politics while running along in the economy."

It is here that Meyer's restrained optimism emerges. He says that "whoever comes next is going to make the system less partial, presidential power more limited, and pluralism broader, not because he wants to but because circumstances so demand."

He does not think, though, that democracy will come to Mexico, "at least in the way that the succession is going to happen. Perhaps by the end of the next six-year term. Society could be strong enough to become a democratic society in the year 2000. In 1994, the president is going to decide for everyone. Once again."

Costa Rica

Niehaus on President's Visits to Germany, Spain

PA3001011293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by William Cespedes Chavarria from Spain]

[Text] At the end of President Rafael Calderon Fournier's tour to Germany and Spain, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus analyzed the economic and political results.

[Begin Niehaus recording] On 28 January, the president concluded his visits to Germany and Spain, which were of great importance to the country. The visits were of great importance, first in the political field, because it means the rapprochement of two great friends in Europe. Traditionally, Germany has shared goals with Costa Rica that are important to North-South relations and thus important for the future of Central America and to the consolidation of the area's peace and democracy. With Spain, our mother country, (?our relationship dates back) to our independence, and we need to strengthen and encourage these links.

In the economic field, we began negotiations with Germany on the use of DM [Deutsche mark] 54 million made available to Costa Rica, in addition to the use of a DM20 million Deutsche mark credit—about $15 million—for ecology. We also discussed the possibility of new credits for the new fiscal year that continues. We signed an agreement that does away with taxes or requests the elimination of taxes between Germany and Costa Rica, which will allow investors greater access to and interest in Costa Rica, thus accelerating investments in our country.

In Spain, we signed an agreement called the Worldwide Economic and Financial Cooperation Program [Programa Global de Cooperacion Economica y Financiera], which opens the door to credits worth 10 billion pesetas, about $85 million. In addition, this agreement is the basis for two other agreements for investment guarantees and development and another to avoid taxing income and inheritances. This will result in commercial missions going to Costa Rica, our participation in fairs and expositions, commercial opportunities in both areas, and specialized seminars.

This is an overall view, with an emphasis on the economy. In addition, we discussed important topics, such as bananas, and we can say we have received from Germany total and full support for the Costa Rican position. In Spain, we feel we reached a conciliatory solution, which the president will mention at the upcoming summit of Latin American banana producing countries in Guayaquil on 10 February. I feel very optimistic, and have so told the president, that both sides will arrive at a conciliatory position, which respects both our interests. [end recording]

El Salvador

'Unity Movement' Forms 'Radical' Political Party

PA3001000393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Milton Grimaldi]

[Text] The Unity Movement [Movimiento de Unidad] could become another political option for the Salvadoran people during the 1994 elections. During a ceremony on 28 January, individuals from the evangelical sector in the country formed a new political party, which, according to its president, is neither centrist nor leftist.

The provisional board of directors of the political party will be led by Jorge Martinez Menendez, former deputy interior minister, who resigned his post on 1 January.

The party emerged as a need to solve existing problems in the country, generated by political interests; party representatives pledged to work for the welfare of Salvadorans.

[Begin Martinez Menendez recording] The Unity Movement is the viewpoint of the vast majority of Salvadorans, who were never before involved in political parties. Now, believing in the democratic process, we have decided to form a new political party. [end recording]

According to Martinez, all political viewpoints are represented in this new political party. After the ceremony, Menendez was questioned by the media, and he defined the party's line as radical.

[Begin recording] [Martinez Menendez] I think the center is ambiguous and God says he dislikes ambiguity. We are not....[pauses] I would rather say that we are radical.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Martinez Menendez] Well, I think the root of the problem must be tackled. But when one places oneself at the extreme, one is only focusing on one side of the problem. When we tackle the root of the problem, we can call ourselves radical, because the word radical comes from root. [end recording]

The ceremony was attended by leaders of several leftist political parties. Ana Guadalupe Martinez of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] defined, although not clearly, the Unity Movement as an option for those people who are not represented by other political parties.

[Begin A. Martinez recording] I think the appearance of new political parties is a sign of the vitality of the democratization that is under way. I also think that from now on, Salvadorans will have an opportunity to elect authorities that correspond with their own interests. This will permit Salvadorans to have different political

options, which until recently was impossible in this country. I think the appearance of this new party is very positive. I also feel that the FMLN is a respectable option for the Salvadoran people. [end recording]

The next step of the new party will be to present its documentation to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [CSE]. It is expected that the Unity Movement will be legalized by the end of May.

This party, which can be considered moderate right in orientation, could generate discontent among other sectors that have requested their legal registration before the CSE and so far have not received a response.

Guatemala

Police Director Removed; Interim Director Appointed

PA0202033093 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] On 29 January, Jose Maria Menendez Garcia was removed unexpectedly as National Police director general, and criminal law expert Leopoldo Armando Guerra was appointed to the post.

The new police director general, however, must first settle his situation in the Judicial Branch where he currently serves as magistrate.

Lieutenant Colonel Jose Luis Fernandez Ligorria, who is the current National Police deputy director, will serve as the interim director general. Mariano Carpio Mazariegos will continue to serve as inspector general and third in command.

The final status of Leopoldo Guerra, who should settle his situation at the Supreme Court of Justice, will be defined on 1 February.

Deputies Reject Army Television Channel

PA3101190993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Carlos Rivas, legal representative of Teleproducciones, Incorporated, will file an amparo at the Supreme Court of Justice against Communications Minister Alvaro Heredia Silva for assigning television Channel 9 to the Army.

According to lawyer Telesforo Guerra Caban, Rivas' sponsor, Heredia Silva "is using the Army as a cover because this frequency is for the use of other than the military, in particular Televisa, because the Army has already been assigned Channel 5."

In addition, a suit will be filed against the government for damages because the corporation and the Catholic Church have been requesting this frequency since 1985, Rivas added.

On 27 January, deputies rejected this charge and agreed that "the Armed Forces should not be charged with education and culture."

Andres Giron said the assignation represents the consolidation of military hegemony over civilian society. He said that "real power has been turned over to other agencies, such as the media."

Deputy Luis Pedro Quezada of the National Advance Party, who described this assignation as a historic step backward, said the new television channel will be a problem for civilian society because it is just "another propaganda medium."

Deputy Juan Francisco Reyes Lopez said another state-controlled medium cannot be justified at all because the population will have to defray its cost and that, in addition, it has been proven that privately operated channels have played a better role than the Army-operated Channel 5.

Honduras

Central Bank General Manager Appointed

PA3001215093 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p 18

[Text] On 28 January, Mrs. Ana Cristina Mejia de Pereyra was appointed general manager of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH). Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Pereyra was the technical secretary of the government's economic cabinet.

In addition, Mrs. Pereyra was an assistant to BCH President Ricardo Maduro Joest. As new general manager, Mrs. Pereyra replaces Mr. Rigoberto Pineda Santos, who decided to retire.

Is was also disclosed to TIEMPO that the BCH board of directors decided to approve the 0.5 percent inflation rate recorded during January, which decreased in comparison to the 0.9 percent recorded during December.

Mr. Pineda Santos, who headed the BCH Economics Studies Department, occupied the position for more than 10 years. He was appointed by former BCH President Gonzalo Carias during the administration of former President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

On the other hand, Mrs. Pereyra has occupied positions with the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise (COHEP) and entered government service during the current Rafael Callejas administration.

German Government Grants Financial Aid

LD3001095793 Hamburg DPA in German 2323 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa (DPA)—The government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Friday granted the central American state of Honduras financial aid totaling 17.5

million Deutsch marks. An agreement to this effect was signed in Tegucigalpa by Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata and the German Ambassador, Walter Eickhoff.

The German development funds will be used to realize projects in fields such as construction and the preservation of schools and hospitals, drinking water supplies, and sewage systems. The two countries also concluded an agreement providing for German technical support in training Honduran scientists.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Meets With UNO Parliamentary Leaders

PA0202045393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro met with leaders of the National Opposition Union, UNO, parliamentarian bloc strictly to discuss the National Assembly problem. President Chamorro practically asked them to return to their seats.

A presidential spokesmen on 1 February confirmed that President Chamorro met with UNO parliamentarian leaders at 1200 in an attempt to find a solution to the National Assembly problem resulting from the president's coup d'etat against that legislative body.

Deputy Presidency Minister Jose Adan Guerra confirmed that the meeting is not over, as the deputies said the president's proposals would be discussed with the UNO parties. It was confirmed that the meeting will continue on 4 February at 0930.

Circles close to the Presidency said President Chamorro proposed the complete return of UNO deputies to the sessions in exchange for holding the majority on the board of directors. This would be achieved by automatically and strategically replacing centrist Deputies Ivan Salvador Madrid, Guillermo Chavarria, and Frank Duarte. Socialist Party Deputy Gustavo Tablada would remain as president.

Some evening newspapers on 1 February reported that the president's meeting was an attempt to continue to buy or try to buy the consciences of honest UNO deputies.

Decree Extends Property Revision Deadline

PA3001043593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2119 GMT 29 Jan 93

["Text" of Decree No. 1093 issued by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in Managua on 29 Jan—read by announcer]

[Text] Extension of the deadline to submit requests for the revision of acquisitions made according to Law No. 86.

Decree No. 1093:

The president of the Republic of Nicaragua, using her power, decrees:

Article 1: To extend until 28 February 1993 the deadline to submit requests for the revision of acquisitions made according to Law No. 86 published in Official Gazette No. 64 of 30 March 1990.

Article 2: This decree reforms Article 11 of Executive Decree No. 3591 of 19 August 1991, Executive Decree No. 4092 of 29 July 1992, and Executive Decree No. 6692 of 18 December 1992.

Article 3: The present decree will go into effect as soon as it is published by any media, regardless of its subsequent publication in the Official Gazette.

[Issued] Presidential Palace, Managua, on 29 January 1993
[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Godoy Says Chamorro's Days 'Numbered'

PA0202033893 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes has told an opposition rally in Juigalpa, Chontales, what he told the Sandinists before 25 February 1990: Violeta Chamorro's days are numbered. Godoy Reyes said that there are, however, those who promote division, while others ask that the president be given the benefit of the doubt so that she has a chance to rectify the situation. He said she would have to rectify and change the stituation that those who betrayed the people did not change.

Just days before the third anniversary of the UNO [National Opposition Union] electoral victory over the Sandinists, the attacks by extremist politicians of that failed coalition have increased in number and defiant speeches continue to be heard at rallies and marches against the Chamorro administration, in which they accuse the administration of betrayal and governing in collaboration with the Sandinists. [passage omitted]

Cesar Speaks at Opposition Rally in Juigalpa

PA0202044493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by Pedro Rafael Garcia]

[Text] On 31 January, approximately 10,000 people participated in a rally organized by the National Opposition Union, UNO, in Juigalpa. Several leaders, including Vice President Virgilio Godoy and Alfredo Cesar, former president of the National Assembly, participated. Here is part of the speech delivered by Cesar before 10,000 peasants on 31 January:

[Begin Cesar recording] It is true our government crashed against a barrier of honest UNO deputies in the National Assembly. The government had to use military

force to expel us. It had to use military force because it had already lost the political battle. It is also true that the same honest UNO deputies continue to be the barrier that will not allow any contempt for the mandate you gave us in February 1990. That is why we are here with the people who elected us. [shouts, applause]

In rallies held during the past months, we said that in February 1990 there was a cogovernment of the Executive Branch, the president of the Republic with the Ortega brothers and the Sandinists. Now, as some of the previous speakers have mentioned, we cannot talk about cogovernment, because this government headed by Violeta Chamorro is already a Sandinist government. This has been clearly shown by the violence used against democratic institutions and forces. It is no longer a cogovernment. It is a government sketched and controlled by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN.

Therefore, the same democratic forces that made possible the miracle of February 1990 are meeting here today and will continue to meet in other Nicaraguan cities. [end recording]

Government Announces New Talks With 3-80 Group

PA0102183993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Jan 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Carlos F. Chamorro B. and Juan Jose Lacayo]

[Text] On 29 January the government announced the beginning of a new round of talks with the rearmed "3-80" [Commander 3-80 Urban Struggle Front of the Nicarao Battalion] group to facilitate their total disarmament, although Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta warned that the talks will be conducted "without a forced agenda," and criminal groups that are not within the security zones will not participate.

A commission formed by representatives of the Government Ministry, the OAS International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV-OAS], the Evangelical Committee for Development Aid [CEPAD] and Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission traveled on 29 January to the northern part of the country to talk with military chiefs in Regions 1 and 6 and to establish a truce with the "3-80" group, led by El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], while they prepare to hold an urgent meeting with the rearmed fighters.

Mendieta and Deputy Government Minister Joaquin Lovo met earlier with Santiago Murray from the CIAV-OAS, Gustavo Parajon from the CEPAD, and Winston Betanco from Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission to evaluate the events that have taken place since the demobilization of the former Nicaraguan Resistance and to resolve the crisis in the north.

A Government Ministry bulletin announced that Commander Marcos Arevalo, second commander of the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) has been appointed to establish the date and place for the talks, which will be coordinated with the CIAV-OAS effort.

Sandinist People's Army [EPS] spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock denied that his institution has established a deadline to initiate operations against the rearmed fighters.

He explained that military operations began in December and continued through January with the first phase of the "All for Stability" operation that will last until June.

The operation involves action against all groups that perpetrate armed crimes in the countryside. Wheelock did not say how many men are participating, but he said that in accordance with the method used by the rearmed fighters (groups of less than 15 men), the Army is using small units without artillery support.

These operations are subordinate to any dialogue that takes place between the rearmed groups and the government.

"The EPS bases its actions on the fact that the problem in the countryside is not military but political," Wheelock said as he described the confrontation as a "counterinsurgency." "Civic action, the intervention of the Social Affairs Ministry, and municipal programs are required," he said.

The military spokesman urged political leaders in Regions 1 and 6 to support the peace. He complained that certain mayors in Region 5 have encouraged uprisings.

With the effort by the BED, the Army hopes that in 1993 it will collect approximately 15,000 weapons that are still in the hands of civilians. It expects that as the disarmament progresses violence will decrease.

Wheelock underlined the support offered by the Italian Government, which allotted $1.7 million for alternative work programs for individuals who give up their weapons.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta reiterated that the government has not established a deadline for the dialogue, but he explained that negotiations with the armed groups that were making demands concluded in April.

Deputy Minister said that the CIAV-OAS has confirmed that the 3-80 group is returning to the security zones. He reiterated the government's resolve to maintain the security zones and to guarantee the personal safety of the rearmed groups while the disarmament talks are under way.

Mendieta said: "We fully understand each group's characteristics and we are not going to establish talks with the criminal groups." He added that the government is willing to even suspend the military operations if the 3-80 group gives up its weapons.

Regarding the dialogue, Government Minister Mendieta explained that the government will not present any proposal or agenda. "We want them to state their

demands," he said, adding that some of these demands entail certain concepts such as the Nicaraguan Resistance's demobilization, the dismantling of certain military bases, and the reduction of the EPS which, he said, have been satisfactorily fulfilled to an extent.

The minister announced that he will summon Nicaragua's right-wing deputies to encourage them to lower the tone of their political rhetoric. He acknowledged that certain groups are attempting to encourage armed action. "This government's political tolerance has been misinterpreted and there has been abuse," Mendieta warned.

The EPS reports that in 1992 the BED recovered: 43,447 rifles; 12,000 grenades; 4,184 RPG-7 rockets; 623,390 bullets; 6,197 mines; and 4,900 kg of explosives.

It adds that rearmed groups carried out the following actions: 1. Against civilians: 10 assaults; 34 vehicle interceptions, and 14 murders.

2. Clashes with EPS: 26 clashes; EPS casualties: four dead and eight wounded. Rearmed group casualties: 46 dead and 29 wounded.

No Deadline Said Set for Rearmed Groups

PA0202044593 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Roberto Orozco and Fidelina Suarez M.]

[Text] Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta on 29 January traveled to Regions 1 and 6 to halt the military operations scheduled to begin on 31 January against armed groups operating in northern Nicaragua.

This was described as a first step in new talks between government authorities and rearmed groups which will start in the next few days in enclaves that cover 5,000 square km.

Mendieta said the round of talks "will not have a forced agenda" and armed groups with criminal backgrounds will not participate.

The government minister met at the Government Ministry with Santiago Murray, representative of the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification; Gustavo Parajon, of the Evangelical Committee for Development Aid; and Winston Betanco, of Cardinal Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission, to evaluate the points to be discussed in the upcoming talks.

Mendieta told the local media there is no specific deadline to start operations against armed groups. This was confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman, spokesman for the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

In statements for LA PRENSA, Wheelock assured categorically there is no deadline to start military operations against armed groups in northern Nicaragua thus ruling out a 31 January deadline announced by government officials and mid-level officers days ago.

The EPS spokesman said operations are taking place permanently in mountain areas with the clear objective of bringing stability to the countryside.

The government minister said criminal groups that refuse to enter the established enclaves will be attacked.

The 3-80 Northern Front, which is headed by Commander "Chacal," already entered the security zone and was joined by other less important groups, such as those headed by "Northiel" and "Guapote."

Wheelock said "I think those statements are based on simple interpretations. The Army did not establish a 31 January deadline, because permanent actions have been taken since December. These actions are part of an initial phase that will conclude in July this year.

The statements by the military spokesman contradicted those made by a top military chief in Boaco who said armed groups should enter the enclaves by 31 January or risk destruction.

The EPS spokesman thus refuted the top military chief in Boaco who told LA PRENSA that 31 January was the deadline for armed groups to enter the enclaves.

Wheelock said EPS operations, which involve small and large units, will proceed as planned to bring stability to the countryside and guarantee agricultural production.

"Together for Stability is the slogan of our plan because it is directed at all Nicaraguans regardless of their political persuasion," he said.

The EPS public relations chief added these plans are complemented by others carried out by the Special Disarmament Brigades, which are tasked with seizing 15,000 weapons.

The most recent military bulletin reported the death of Juan Alberto Blandon, a native of Rio Blanco, who was murdered by armed groups, Wheelock said.

"The EPS must act if there are groups involved in criminal actions, including murder," he said. Wheelock added that 26 clashes that produced 46 dead and 29 injured among the ranks of the rearmed had taken place as of 25 January.

The Army sustained four dead and eight injured. The enclaves established for rearmed groups are in Quilali and Region 5.

Wheelock described the insurgency problem in the countryside as a political rather than military problem.

Minister Mendieta identified two kinds of armed groups: criminal and political.

Alleged Sequeira Suspects Said 'On the Warpath'

PA0102202193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by Jose Lacayo]

[Text] The self-styled Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI] issued a communique on 30 January stating that Dr. Arges Sequeira Mangas, the slain president of the Union of Nicaraguan Agricultural-Livestock Producers and leader of the National Federation of Owners of Confiscated Property, was heading a plan to create groups of former contras and paramilitary forces to eliminate those opposed to having confiscated properties returned to their previous owners.

In a communique sent to the media, the FPI stated that the three main suspects of Dr. Sequeira's murder—Frank Ibarra Silva, Diego Javier Espinoza, and German Lacayo—"are on the warpath" in their ranks. The FPI harshly attacked those who are pressing for the return of their properties in the country's northern region and called on the police not to be manipulated in their work to clarify Sequeira's murder, who, it said, "was on the gringo embassy payroll so much so that he used its vehicles to travel about."

The FPI accused the Higher Council of Private Enterprise of abetting the actions of armed groups in the north, such as those headed by El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores] and Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], whom they accused of killing peasants, including pregnant women and children, with impunity.

The FPI also accused LA PRENSA editor Pablo Antonio Cuadra and Radio Corporacion of being recalcitrant abettors of war and held Managua Mayor Arnold Aleman and former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar responsible for making calls to annihilate their enemies.

In conclusion, the FPI reiterated that "we are not terrorists, but we will annihilate the enemies of the people."

Arrest Warrants for Murderers Issued

PA0202145293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] We have a last minute report: Jose Antonio Garcia Orozco, second judge of the of Leon Department Criminal Court, on 1 February issued a warrant for the secure and formal arrest of Frank Ibarra, Diego Javier Espinoza, and German Antonio Lacayo for the murder of Arges Sequeira Mangas.

Leftist Forces Claim Rancher's Murder

PA0102233093 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by correspondent Francisco Flores Lopez from Matagalpa]

[Text] The Leftist Punitive Forces have claimed responsibility for the murder of rancher Esau Ubeda Rodriguez. Seven murders and two holdups were reported over the past weekend. Nine hundred men are preparing to enter the mountains.

Ivan Herrera Herrera, also known as Commander Huracan and a former 1st lieutenant of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, contacted the Radio Informaciones correspondent in Matagalpa. He said the main objective of kidnapping Jinotega cattleman Esau Ubeda Rodriguez was to force him to sit down and negotiate with the government on the sale of his La Reforma property. The money would be used to go to Honduras to join the Cinchoneros guerrilla forces.

It was also reported that more than 900 men—former officers and soldiers of the EPS and the Interior Ministry—are preparing to enter the mountains to defend the achievements of the revolution, mainly of the poorest class in our country.

The police reported seven murders in various parts of Matagalpa Department and a holdup in which more than 50,000 cordobas in cash, including foreign currency, and several electrical appliances valued at more than 500,000 cordobas were stolen.

The police have not yet identified the individuals responsible for the explosion of a powerful bomb that frightened the 6,000 residents of the city. The bomb exploded near the Commander Hector Flores sports field located in the northern part of the city, damaging the Caoba workers hotel.

Resistance Party Holds News Conference

PA0102004393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance Party [PRN] held a news conference with Managua journalists to report on the government's noncompliance with the thousands of Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] fighters, who disarmed to rejoin civilian life and attain democracy in Nicaragua.

According to the statement issued by the former RN fighters, a few days after the conclusion of the disarmament period, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] started harassing, imprisoning, threatening, and murdering more than 2000 RN members. Until now, the commissions created by the Central American presidents have not followed up on the CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS] agreements, and the commission created by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has been unable to influence the Nicaraguan Government into fulfilling the agreements.

According to the PRN statement, the PRN leaders have a moral commitment to defend the lives of those who have rearmed themselves because they were encouraged by the PRN to disarm when they were their commanders. That is why the PRN feels it has the obligation to express itself against the government.

The RN leaders said they are not criminals as the government or the Sandinist soldiers want the people and international community to believe to justify the military actions scheduled by the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] for 1 February 1993.

Those who have rearmed themselves said that since the government does not want to fulfill its promises, they are asking Central American presidents to request the fulfillment of agreements signed between the government and the RN.

The RN, therefore, condemns any military action against the disarmed men and demand legal status for their party, which was part of the aforementioned agreements.

CNPP President Says RN Verbal Attacks Unfounded

PA0102185693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Hugo Mejia, Council of Political Parties [CNPP] president, has reported that the CNPP has never denied the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] the right to become a political party. He added that the verbal attacks by the RN against the CNPP are unfounded. The RN leaders are the ones who have not complied with the electoral law provisions for establishing a political party in the country.

Countering the harsh accusations made by several former contra chieftains, Mejia said that Noel Rivera Gadea, legal representative of the group, had not properly informed his clients about the truth or the political group's status. The CNPP cannot grant legal status to a political group if it cannot prove before the law that the leaders of the 143 country municipalities are registered in the 1990 electoral lists. [sentence as heard]

Mejia said that the CNPP made an exception so that they could prove with documents from the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification that most of the leaders of that political group are demobilized members of the RN, something that Noel Rivera Gadea has kindly accepted.

The CNPP has invited RN leaders to verify the legalization work being done by that group so they will truly understand the situation.

Mayors' State Support for Chamorro's Initiatives

PA0102181293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] The Esteli Declaration supports the peace and national reconciliation initiatives expressed by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Esteli Declaration:

We, the mayors of Region No. 1 municipalities and affected by armed groups, met with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, Deputy Government Minister Professor Joaquin Lobo, and Mr. Crisanto Castillo, Region No. 1 government delegate. We are concerned about those who have rearmed themselves and of the media coverage they are receiving. We wish to declare the following:

1. The size of the rearmed groups is of no significance, nor do they possess the importance that media and politicians have tried to give them.

2. We are aware that more than a military-political problem exists. We face the problem of groups using rifles to conduct illegal activities as a livelihood.

3. As authorities, we reflect the feeling of our communities, which are profoundly concerned over the activities of these armed groups that act as a restraint to our economic and social development initiatives.

We therefore agree:

1. To support the peace and national reconciliation initiatives encouraged by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

2. To call upon the armed group leaders to lay down their weapons and to join our municipality development efforts.

3. We call on the media to objectively and responsibly inform the national and international public of the facts.

4. We strongly condemn the use of arms to express any opinion, as this attacks the democratic process and the building of a lawful state.

Issued in the city of Esteli on 29 January 1993 and signed by Quilali Municipal Mayor Carlos H. Altamirano; Jorge A. Rodriguez, El Jicaro municipal mayor; Murra Municipal Mayor Miguel A. Cornejo; Jose Adan Oliva, city of Antigua municipal mayor; and San Fernando Municipal Mayor Alfonso Cortes.

Presidential Aspirant Meets With Honduran President

PA3001000593 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 39

[Report by EL HERALDO editor Armando Villanueva]

[Text] Nicaragua's Eden Pastora, better known as "Commander Cero," a man who repeatedly failed in the military arena and who is now a presidential aspirant in his country, met on 27 January with Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to ask for "political advice" to see if he can achieve victory in his new adventure.

Pastora acquired international renown for heading a Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] operation that culminated in the seizure of the Managua National Palace, an action that marked the onset of the Nicaraguan revolution, which was victorious only to be defeated later.

When the revolutionary movement triumphed on 19 July 1979, Cero formed part of the Sandinist regime and occupied

two deputy minister posts, but eventually as a result of ideological differences, he broke from Daniel Ortega.

Pastora first described his visit to Callejas as a "courtesy visit" but he later admitted that his objective was to inform the Honduran president about his political plans and to ask him for political advice.

He said that he asked for "assistance from a political expert capable of helping us form a political party."

The former anti-Sandinist fighter said his political movement has a "centrist" tendency; that is, it is neither with the Sandinists nor with the conservatives of the National Opposition Union [UNO]. Cero asked Callejas to provide him with the assistance of a political expert who may help him secure the Nicaraguan Presidency with votes, not bullets.

Cero said he will make similar requests to the Governments of Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Spain.

During the meeting, the two exchanged ideas on the Central American process.

The legendary Nicaraguan "Commander Cero" described his incorporation into Nicaraguan political life through the Democratic Action Movement—now in the process of becoming a political party—as "one of his commitments."

He said: The idea is to install in Nicaragua a government for honesty, peace, liberty, and democracy.

When asked if he believes the defunct "contras" can be reactivated, Pastora said no. He explained that right now "there are no suitable political conditions for that."

Pastora said that contrary to the past, the contras now enjoy freedom of expression and movement as well as political freedoms "thanks to the presence of President Violeta Chamorro."

Besides, he added, there is no leader or anyone capable of heading a movement aimed at reactivating the armed struggle.

"There is no danger, no fear, and no justification for the recontras to exist," Pastora said after explaining that the armed groups that have emerged are the "to-be-expected remnants" of the war against Anastasio Somoza, first, and against the Sandinists, afterwards.

Pastora also discarded any ties between his visit and the arrival in the country of General George Joulwan, the commander of the U.S. Southern Command.

Regarding the attack he suffered on 30 May 1984 in La Penca, on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, Pastora said he cannot accuse the CIA of this because although there are "subjective opinions" that the right did it, there are also "subjective opinions" that it was the left that did it.

Pastora said he will try to meet with whomever is "ready to listen" and to exchange "ideas."

Regarding the arrival of a Democratic Party president in the United States, Pastora said that the "democrats see Latin America with better eyes and we expect much from them."

Pastora cautioned about the danger that "a polarization" of forces in Nicaragua could bring. He said that if this occurs, the Sandinists would regain power. This is why movements with other tendencies, such as his, must have the opportunity to participate, he explained.

Pastora said that in Latin America and the world, the left "must seek a new path, and capitalism must do the same" because it has failed in many countries, including the United States.

Economic Cabinet Members Attend National Assembly

PA0102181593 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Claudio Siria; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Members of the economic cabinet attended the 28 January session of the National Assembly at the invitation of the Board of Directors to brief the deputies on the details of the government's economic plan. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo thanked them for the invitation and said the cabinet wants to maintain a continuous exchange with the Assembly committees to contribute to the harmony among state branches.

[Lacayo] "The ministers who make up the government economic cabinet and others have come here to express our views on the arduous task of rebuilding our economy based on the phase we concluded, the new phase we began on 10 January, on benefits we can expect, and the heroic sacrifices each one of us is able to endure for the sake of the general good." The Presidency minister presented an analysis by two prestigious U.S. scholars on Nicaragua's economic program.

[Lacayo] "This success is all the more admirable as it is the only case since World War II of a country going from hyperinflation to single-digit inflation in barely two years. In addition, in 1992."

Finance Minister Emilio Pereira explained the economic aspects of the plan, and Social Action Minister William Baez Sacasa discussed the social and human solidarity aspects of the plan. Five National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies were present at the Assembly to hear the minister's statements. A total of 21 deputies expressed their concerns about the economic plan.

[Dora Maria Tellez, Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, deputy] "I think Mr. Baez' explanation is good. I hope that everything is done exactly as planned." The ministers of agriculture, labor, construction and transportation, social action, and finances, the Central Bank president, and [passage indistinct] answered questions.

[Pablo Pereira, economy and development minister] "We have coordinated a production cabinet, which the Economy and Development Ministry must coordinate, to have in a brief period a production program to channel all the various actions and thus implement and ensure an increase in production." Lacayo gave the details of the basic elements of the national agenda.

[Lacayo] "This means solidarity reactivation, consolidation of peace, strengthening the rule of law, and a definitive solution to the problem of disputed properties. That is the national agenda for 1993. I say national because it is for everyone. I say national because it is ours. It does not belong to anyone else, as a distinguished deputy said." Lacayo said this agenda and the solidarity reactivation program stem from the dialogue with all the political, social, and economic sectors of the country.

[Lacayo] "That is why this is a sovereign and national agenda. It must encourage us to cast aside that old polarizing and confrontational identity that exists between UNO and FSLN, management and labor, rich and poor. This agenda must promote a new patriotic and national identity that is thoroughly Nicaraguan to see if everyone together, everyone together [repeats] can move the country forward."

He said the five government cabinets, namely, the economic, production, social security, and infrastructure cabinets, are prepared to work closely with the Assembly permanent committees.

D. Ortega Urges Change in U.S. Policy on Cuba

PA0102234093 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Marking the 34th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], on 31 January said: As long as there is injustice, we must continue to struggle. The FSLN secretary general issued an important call to the U.S. Government to lift the blockade of Cuba and to change its interventionist policy.

The FSLN leader said that despite the harsh U.S. blockade of Cuba, the people have greater security and stability than those in other Third World countries. He said the Cuban people are provided free health and education services, very unlike the hunger and poverty caused by capitalism. Ortega said that people's freedom must be comprehensive, meeting the needs of the population. He added: As long as there is injustice in the world, revolutionaries must continue to struggle.

Spanish International Cooperation Secretary Visits

PA0102173493 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Inocencio Arias Llamas, Spanish secretary of state for international cooperation for Ibero-America, arrived in Nicaragua on 28 January to broaden Spain's cooperation and inaugurate several social projects.

Inocencio Arias Llamas was greeted at Managua Airport by his Nicaraguan counterpart, Erwin Krugger,.

During his stay in Nicaragua, Arias Llamas will meet with the president of the Republic and high-ranking government officials. Spain has granted Nicaragua over $11,400,000 in the last two years for cooperation in social, economic, and production projects.

[Begin Arias recording] As I just said, this is probably the only country I have visited twice since I was appointed secretary of state for cooperation. This proves not only my sympathy for Nicaragua but also our government's interest in continuing to cooperate and extend our hand so the country may overcome its difficulties and reach the level of development and welfare—since it has already attained peace—that those of us who know and love the country desire for it. [end recording]

Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger evaluated Nicaragua's efforts at strengthening the ties of solidarity and cooperation with friendly countries.

[Begin Krugger recording] It is very important that ministers come and learn about the situation of cooperation that has been granted, that we review what we have done, what we have achieved, and the impact of cooperation on the national reconciliation process and the economic stabilization process. It is important that they get to know the plans we have because if they see that everything is being used and is advancing properly, they will continue to help us in the process of solidarity reactivation, as the president has said. Therefore, I consider it a success that Nicaragua will receive visits from six European foreign cooperation ministers in the next 60 days. [end recording]

The Netherlands foreign cooperation minister recently visited Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Who else is coming?

[Krugger] In addition to the Spanish minister, Netherlands Minister Pronk was already here. It was an excellent visit. You already heard the statements.

The Finnish minister will be here between 5 and 6 February. The Swedish, Luxembourg, and Norwegian ministers will come later. Thus, we have a very tight agenda with six visits. I believe it is unusual for so many ministers to visit a country in one year. We have gotten them to come, and they have very intense agendas because cooperation requires much technical work. [end recording]

Offers Increased Training for Police

PA0102163093 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] During a visit with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, Spanish Minister of Cooperation Inocencio Arias Llamas [title as heard] offered greater cooperation for the operation of the Police Academy and for the professional training of senior officers of the organization.

The Spanish minister of cooperation offered to increase the assistance for the creation of the National Academy of Police that will begin operation sometime during the first three months of 1993, at the very latest.

[Begin Mendieta recording] We talked about technical resources, teaching materials, and laboratory equipment. In other words, we have talked about all the needs of the academy and the fact that Nicaragua does not currently have the capability to purchase material on its own. Undoubtedly, it will begin to operate with all the resources we currently possess. [end recording]

Likewise, they discussed cooperation for other areas of the Government Ministry.

[Begin Mendieta recording] Spain also offered cooperation in the immigration field, to train firefighters, and particularly to continue analyzing our needs for training personnel, not only in the National Police Academy, but in other courses to be offered in Spain. [end recording]

There are 20 national police senior officers taking leadership courses in Spain.

Regarding the investigation of the murder of Dr. Sequeira, Mendieta confirmed that a group of Spanish detectives will soon return to the country, and that a fourth person allegedly involved in the murder of Sequeira is being sought.

* Commentaries View National Agreement Promise

* Solution to Crisis

93CA0052A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Dec 92 p 10

[Commentary by Francisco de Asis Fernandez Arellano]

[Text] If we cross over from the painful region of economic instability in which we now live to the misfortune of physical insecurity, we will be citizens of an impossible Nicaragua.

The exemplary democratic transition in which both victors and vanquished in the 1990 elections took pride gave way to a potential consolidation of democracy, to a priceless opportunity for patriotic responsibility where for the first time in Nicaragua's history the governed do not wish to overthrow their rulers. Today, however, this transition is beset by attacks devoid of any patriotism.

We are becoming prey to the violence of a dark, criminal hand that would like violence itself to be the means by which the differences between us Nicaraguans are settled. To economic poverty and social and political instability, to the lack of authority prevailing in every one of this country's factions and parties, someone is treacherously adding the visible and tragic specter of perverse terror.

What can be done to place the interests of the homeland above partisan, sectarian, and exclusionary interests? What can be done to make solutions depend on negotiation, not confrontation? What can be done so that the proposals for peace, reconciliation, freedom, democracy, progress, social justice, and defense of national interests are on the agenda of the rulers and the ruled?

Every possible effort is needed to develop judicial and political institutions in the country and to strengthen the rule of law. To this end the firm exercise of authority is absolutely indispensable. Horrible events such as the murder of hundreds of Sandinist comrades, the murder of the president of the Association of Confiscation Victims, Dr. Arges Sequeiras, and the bombing of the offices of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], are certainly not contributions to peace and reconciliation, but are obviously due to a desire for anarchy and social and political instability, and deserve to be condemned and repudiated by all Nicaraguans. Finding and convicting the culprits is a priority for the forces of law and order.

Reflection and maturity are what we need amid the tragedy in which we are living. We need accords and political and institutional mechanisms that will promote a real democracy in which all citizens, political parties, and trade union and grassroots organizations can express consent and dissent. We need a national agreement that will lift our gaze toward the interests of the homeland and that will have as its starting point the accords of the Economic and Social Dialogue, Phases I and II. These accords are based on a recognition of this government's legitimacy, the economic and social transformations promoted by the revolution, the workers' legitimate grievances, the level of organizational development of the country's work force and trade unions, the important role of businessmen, and the need to find a solution to the previous government's unfair confiscations and expropriations.

We need a rational agreement that will steadfastly keep its distance from the polarized positions of the far left and far right, which have in fact gotten to the point of a verbal terrorism, the upshot of which is unpredictable.

We need sensitivity and social justice. We need to understand that there cannot be political democracy unless there is economic democracy. We need economic policies that have a large dose of social justice, that are designed to create new job opportunities that will guarantee job security and fair wages, and we need measures

that will dampen the adverse impact that economic austerity has had on the poor.

We need to rescue Nicaragua from the unspeakable tragedy of a century of exclusionary governments that have given us only frustration, pain, and poverty. We need to rescue it for the present and for the future, for us and for our children, because we are on the verge of losing it, because we have already shattered it, because now we have only hope left.

* Greater Efforts Needed

93CA0052B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
16 Dec 92 p 11

[Commentary by Carlos F. Chamorro B.]

[Text] A national accord that has the unanimous support of all political and economic forces in the country is as desirable as it is impossible to achieve in 1993. Any theoretical and practical exercise in this regard leads to the conclusion that such unanimity is not feasible. There are too many players, too many bargaining tables, too many opposing interests. It is feasible, however, to identify basic common ground in political, economic, judicial, and social matters that could bring representative political forces closer together, even though this would not put an end to conflicts.

The prolonging of the climate of confrontation that developed amid the 1990 elections has been a major obstacle to progress toward such an understanding. The rightist sectors that define themselves as anti-Sandinists are doing little or nothing to build a national model, because they first seek to do away with Sandinism. They do not recognize the political legitimacy of their adversaries and will be satisfied only when they are eliminated.

Hence, although there was a valuable opportunity for the broadest of agreements after the signing of the Transition and Dialogue Accords, they were challenged by a sector of the political right and COSEP. Two years later, there is virtually no chance that the accords can lure other national forces, and thus new channels must be explored.

In 1992, the results of the economic program leave much to be desired in terms of production and social compensation. Although natural disasters (tidal waves and eruptions), the fall in coffee prices, the ownership crisis, etc., had a great deal to do with this, the government bears a very high degree of responsibility for the failure. The restrictions implicit in the economic program have been effective in controlling inflation, but not in promoting production. And in the face of the inordinate spread of poverty and unemployment, the absence of a social policy is glaring.

The other cause of worsening conditions in 1992 has been the intensification of the political crisis. In midyear the domestic far right got a big push from the withholding of U.S. aid, since for political reasons Senator Helms wound up dictating President Bush's foreign policy. At the time this was interpreted as a green light for the demand that the government be replaced, the Army abolished, and the confrontation with Sandinism accelerated, a shortsighted view that culminated in the morass of the crisis of government branches decreed by Alfredo Cesar.

The Outlook for 1993

Now that the U.S. elections are over and Bush has been defeated, and after the Supreme Court's ruling that annulled what Congress did as of 2 September, there are new factors for change in the outlook for 1993:

1. In politics, a new congressional leadership may emerge from the election of the Executive Committee of the National Assembly on 9 January 1993. This leadership must be able not only to build a new relationship with the Executive Branch but also to achieve a minimal congressional consensus to legislate on all matters of national interest. Respect for the rule of law must be established as a guideline of conduct that applies to all, and not just when it is politically convenient or harms one's adversary.

2. Ownership is a second problem that requires an urgent and definitive solution. Aside from enforcing straightforwardly the already established policy on compensation for confiscation victims, the government must give a clear signal that it is determined to lend economic support to the rise of the emerging sectors, which are vital in the democratization of property. This would help to dispel the existing climate of mistrust.

3. A third focus of discussion concerns intensifying the professionalization that the police and the Army are conducting, with their respective laws and bylaws. Lending security and stability to the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and the police by insulating them from any sort of foreign pressure is a basic requirement for national stability. In contrast, to call for the abolition of the EPS or for cutting it back to a minimum is to ignore its vital functions and only fuels the climate of confrontation.

4. Last and perhaps most important is the course of the economy. Paradoxically, the change of government in the United States, which suggests that the neoliberal economic orthodoxy will be modified, and the medium-term trend toward less foreign aid will compel the country's leaders to give priority to economic and social policy on the national agenda.

How can a consensus be reached on economic policy? This is the big challenge of 1993. On it depends the only chance to bring together a majority of the country around a viable economic program that will truly lessen polarization.

An accord among political leaders is necessary but insufficient to achieve this goal. Beforehand, we must decide which production agents will be favored by economic growth and social policy. And on that basis the government is obliged to conduct broad-based negotiations with unions, businessmen, small and medium-sized producers, and other sectors in a bid to rechart the country's economic course.

Perhaps we will not achieve a national accord, but at least the rules of the game will be made clearer.

Panama

Alleged Colombian Guerrillas Kidnap U.S. Citizens

PA0102183493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1756 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] This is a last minute report. The National Police of the Darien region are investigating the accuracy of an unofficial report on the kidnapping of three U.S. Army members [as heard] by alleged Colombian guerrillas.

According to police sources, the action, which has not been confirmed, occurred in Pucuru, Darien Province, on 31 January.

The guerrillas reportedly took the North Americans to the border with Colombia.

Our source said these reports are common in the area and that most of the time they are lies, but it takes time to confirm them due to difficulties in communications and transportation in the region.

U.S. Missionaries Confirmed Kidnapped

PA0202011993 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0056 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The following is a special bulletin: Colombian guerrillas kidnapped three U.S. missionaries in the Darien Province jungle. We repeat this information: Three U.S. citizens have been kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas in the Darien Province jungle. The information was confirmed, in exclusive statements to Telemetro Television, by Justice Minister Juan Chevalier.

Names of Kidnapped Announced

PA0202042093 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Deputy Government Minister Carlos Trujillo on 1 February confirmed for TVN Television that three U.S. citizens were kidnapped by a group of alleged Colombian guerrillas.

[Begin recording] [Trujillo] We have information stating that certain people who claim to be guerrillas crossed the Colombian border into Panama and took three U.S. citizens hostage, or kidnapped them. The three U.S. citizens were in Darien Province near the border with Colombia, specifically in the Boca de Cupe area. I am told that the three men are missionaries who went into the area to spread the gospel. The National Police have been ordered to begin a search for these men.

[Unidentified reporter] Deputy Minister, have the Colombian authorities been asked to help search for these men?

[Trujillo] I have been informed that the contact was made.

[Reporter] Is the ministry planning to continue the investigation 2 February?

[Trujillo] That is correct. On 2 February we will continue the search. There is also a helicopter in the area helping the National Police in their search.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the U.S. Army helping in this search?

[Trujillo] No U.S. soldiers are participating in this search. [end recording]

Other reports obtained by TVN Television state that the search was suspended at 1800 on 1 February due to poor visibility. On the evening of 1 February, and following a Security and National Defense Council meeting, Government Minister Juan Chevalier ordered National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez to contact the Colombian authorities to carry out a joint search and rescue operation. It is believed that the kidnappers of the three missionaries crossed the border and took the kidnapped men to Turbo, Colombia. The three missionaries have been identified as: Mark Rich, David Mankin, and Ricardo Tenenor.

Further on Kidnapping

PA0202144693 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p a1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] It has been officially reported that three U.S. missionaries were kidnapped on 1 February in Darien Province by unidentified men who may have taken them to Colombia.

Vice President Guillermo Ford, Foreign Minister Julio Linares, and Government Minister Juan Chevalier confirmed the kidnapping after holding an urgent Security Council meeting at the Presidential Palace.

Chevalier reported that the kidnapping took place on the banks of the Pucro River between Boca de Cupe and Paya in Darien, but he provided no further details.

According to Chevalier, the missionaries' names are David Mankin, Ricardo Tenenor, and Mark Rich. It was not stated whether the missionaries are Catholic or Protestant or why they were in Darien.

It was unofficially reported that the three men are members of the New Tribes Mission [Mision Nuevas Tribus].

Darien is used by Colombian guerrillas as a refuge and by smugglers, illegal aliens, and drug traffickers who smuggle drugs and money due to the lack of surveillance.

Several foreigners have been murdered in Darien, allegedly by drug traffickers.

Foreign Minister Linares stated the situation is "alarming" but said they already have an idea of who the kidnappers are.

According to Linares, the site of the kidnapping is one hour from Colombia on foot.

A police source told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the three U.S. citizens may have been taken to Turbo in Colombia across the Gulf of Uraba.

Radio Mia reported on 1 February that the U.S. and Panamanian authorities learned of the kidnapping of the three missionaries through Tanya Rich, wife of one of the missing men.

Cruz on Ford Comment on 'Shoot To Kill' Criminals

PA0102183293 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by Celso Contreras; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commenting on remarks by Vice President Guillermo Ford that the only alternative to the rising crime rate is to shoot to kill, separated [separado] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said the statement merely adheres to the Penal Code.

[Cruz] "In such a case, the law enforcement officer cannot be held liable, because he acted in the line of duty, complying with his duty, since a policeman must guarantee the life, honor, and properties of members of society. The Supreme Court has reiterated in several rulings that when an officer kills, for example, an escaping inmate or a criminal who was endangering the life of a third person or the policeman's life or who stole goods, he cannot be held liable. Therefore, the policeman cannot be held in preventive custody or suspended from his post." Cruz also talked about statements by government and ministry officials who agree with Ford that this is an effective means to curb crime. He also commented on statements by the Catholic Church and the Human Rights Commission.

[Cruz] "I do not think anyone listened to all of Ford's remarks. The only thing people heard was the final phrase: shoot to kill. Said just like that, the words sound very harsh. Within the general context of the vice president's statement, however, they merely adhere to the terms established by the current Penal Code." In concluding, Cruz recalled that the Penal Code lists three exemptions that are basically universal, namely, legitimate defense.

[Cruz] "A person who kills an assailant is making use of his legitimate defense and therefore cannot be held liable."

The second exemption is a state of necessity.

[Cruz] "A typical example would be two people who are shipwrecked and have only one life preserver, which means only one person can be saved. The law authorizes either of those two people to allow the other to die to take the life preserver. When the survivor reaches land and reports having killed someone to take the only life preserver, he has a justifiable cause for homicide and is not liable." Cruz ended by noting that the third justification for murder established in the Penal Code is acting in the line of duty.

Linares Proposes Destroying Noriega Files

PA0102162793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p 1a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares proposed burning the 15,000 boxes of documents the U.S. Army seized at deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's headquarters following the 20 December 1989 invasion.

According to the official, the files contain "many documents" prepared by Noriega to maintain a "sword of Damocles" over Panamanians, as the files contain information on people's private lives.

Linares stated that items unrelated to vouchers or other transactions should be destroyed.

A MIAMI HERALD report stated that one of Noriega's 15,000 boxes contains the transcript of the wife of a current top government official, telling a friend between sobs of her husband's beatings.

The 15,000 boxes of the former Panama Defense Forces remain in an installation under U.S. control. In April 1990, the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property [DRP] began a dispute with the U.S. Southern Command to obtain access to the documents. The U.S. Government agreed to grant the permit, but the results of the DRP action are still unknown.

The Endara administration appointed a special commission—mostly made up of priests—to classify and destroy the documents on the private lives of individuals, but its members resigned months later without carrying out their mission.

Article Rejects Woerner as New U.S. Envoy

PA0202041193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 93 p 18A

[Article by Carlos M. Arango, Jr.: "An Undesirable Ambassador"]

[Text] In view of the rumors about the forthcoming appointment of General Frederick Woerner as U.S. ambassador to Panama, we Panamanians should express our opinion.

The darkest period of our history as an independent nation is still very fresh in our hearts and minds. The military sector controlled the country with an incredible disregard for democracy as a system and for freedom and human rights as a way of life.

What is amazing is that this occurred in tragic detriment to the Panamanians with the knowledge, and what is worse, with the protection of the U.S. Government. The United States is supposed to be the greatest promoter of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

The extreme benevolence toward the tyranny imposed by dictator Omar Torrijos was especially noticeable during the Democratic administration of President Jimmy Carter. The most terrible crimes (the one against Father Hector Gallegos, just to name one) and violations of human rights were committed under the protective hand of a Democratic administration.

Perhaps what Carter sought was to get Torrijos on his side to obtain what he wanted: a canal treaty favorable to the United States. That is what he obtained and Torrijos sold out his patriotism when he agreed that we would be left under the Pentagon's umbrella.

The U.S. military sector played a considerable role in the policy to protect and help its Panamanian counterparts. This attitude originated in the Pentagon and was maintained throughout the dictatorship of Torrijos, Paredes, and Noriega.

Now it seems probable that another Democratic administration will appoint Gen. Woerner as ambassador to Panama.

It was precisely Gen. Woerner who maintained a passive attitude during the harshest years of the narcodictatorship. Many Panamanians will surely remember when the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] soldiers mocked and took advantage of the U.S. soldiers who, at their commander's order, Gen. Woerner, had to silently and patiently tolerate these humiliations because they could not antagonize the dictator.

The demoralization of the U.S. soldiers was such that they themselves changed the name of their command from SouthCom [preceding two words in English] to WimpCom [preceding word in English].

We Panamanians who suffered the worst were asking ourselves: What is going on with Woerner? Is he protecting Noriega? Everything seemed to indicate this was the case because when Woerner was ordered to undertake more aggressive actions against the dictator, he opposed them.

In addition, we Panamanians knew that he and some of his Pentagon colleagues were opposed to a future military invasion as a solution to the Noriega problem.

When President Bush finally decided to remove Woerner from his post and Generals Thurman and Cisneros arrived, a change in the Southern Command was immediately evident.

This is the ambassador President Clinton might decide to send to Panama. The first thing an ambassador must obtain is goodwill toward the country he represents. That is something Gen. Woerner will never be able to obtain. The Panamanians will not forget his recent past. The new President would be making a mistake if he proceeds with this appointment, as is being speculated.

Therefore, we respectfully ask President Clinton to give up this idea. We Panamanians will not give our consent to the approval the United States will request from Panama. Let us hope President Endara and Foreign Minister Linares will turn down this request in the manner diplomacy establishes and in keeping with the feelings of the majority of Panamanians.

Woerner's presence in Panama will encourage the military officers who have been displaced from power and who again long to commit their misdeeds and to shackle our nascent democracy, which, with much difficulty, we are trying to consolidate.

We Panamanians respect the U.S. people. Likewise, we ask that we be respected. We ask that there be due respect toward people who love freedom and who reject any influences that might bring back the past.

A Democratic president who has just taken office would not convey the best message to the democratic Latin American countries if he sends to Panama an ambassador such as Frederick Woerner, who is remembered sadly by a country that sought to shake off the yoke of a dictatorship to return to democracy.

I do not have any contact with the U.S. media, but if someone does, I hope he will make known this opinion to stop President Clinton from making a mistake, to keep Mr. Woerner from having to face this rejection, and avoid one more problem for Panamanian democracy.

Argentina

Interview With Menem on Free Trade, GATT

PY0102223593 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 93 Political Section p 4

["Summary" of "exclusive" interview with President Carlos Menem by LA PRENSA special correspondent Irene Hirsh in Davos, Switzerland; date not given]

[Text] [Hirsh] Mr. President, what are the chances that during your meetings with Swiss and European investors, you will insist on the need for the establishment in Argentina of labor-intensive industries?

[Menem] As you know, investors seek a product which, through investment, can compete on the national and international market. Technological development has changed the rules of the game somewhat. What in the past was made by men is now made by robots. This, however, is not the case in fields such as mining. The prospecting project to be implemented in Catamarca will represent 1,000 new direct and 20,000 indirect job opportunities. This is very important because it will allow reactivation, should the project materialize, which I am sure it will, of a large portion of the railway service in Northeastern Argentina.

[Hirsh] What do you expect in the field of commercial and political relations with the new Clinton administration, taking into account that U.S. economist Lester Thurow in Davos predicted a protectionist policy?

[Menem] The idea of a free trade zone from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego would represent the implementation of a plan announced by [former] President Bush. The United States and Argentina want the full integration of the entire continent to successfully compete with other regions of the world. Practically all Latin American countries and Mexico, with the exception of Cuba of course, are involved in this task. As for comments by economist Lester Thurow, whose latest book I have read, I think it was a personal statement because a leading country like the United States cannot adopt a protectionist attitude because there is too much at stake.

[Hirsh] After meeting with GATT director Arturo Dunkel and listening to pessimistic opinions on the end of the Uruguay round, what do you have to say?

[Menem] I think a solution will be reached. Nobody will benefit from the failure of these talks. It would be dramatic and totally irresponsible not to reach an understanding that will prevent regrettable consequences. Therefore, it is quite likely a solution will be found, if not in March maybe in June. One must bear in mind the fact that many creases, especially in the agricultural field, have been ironed out during the past six or seven years of negotiations. Everything is subject to an agreement which I hope, I reiterate, will be reached by the United States and the EC.

[Hirsh] I would like to ask you, Mr. President, about the current drama the former Yugoslavia is experiencing and whether Argentina, if needed, will give refuge to people from Bosnia.

[Menem] We made the offer some time ago and have reiterated it on several occasions. We would have no problem, in keeping with the Constitution, to receive all men of goodwill who want to come to our country, as is stated in the Constitution, with some resources. If they do not have the resources, the United Nations will take care of these refugees and give them financial support, not a lot of money but just enough so that they can start a new life. This has always been the case, refugees have always had this possibility.

[Hirsh] To end this chat Mr. President, how do the Argentine relations with the United Kingdom stand?

[Menem] Excellent. The day before yesterday, Ambassador Campora told me that he attended a luncheon with British political leaders and officials, "who greatly praised Argentina, so much so that I feel I have nothing more to do, just to organize your visit to England which will not be so much an invitation, more a request by England for you to go there."

[Hirsh] Will it be soon?

[Menem] I know there is a chance it will take place this year. I hope so. That is what Ambassador Campora tells me.

Brazil

President Agrees To Increase Interest Rates

PY0102185993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Paulo Haddad and Planning Minister Yeda Crusius have managed to convince President Itamar Franco to keep interest rates high for a short period to prevent the economy from getting out of control. After meeting with the economic team for two and a half hours at Planalto Palace, Haddad read an official presidential note reaffirming the president's opposition to a policy of permanently high interest rates, but admitting possible adjustments "until a program consistent with the country's economic situation is implemented." A presidential adviser commented: "The note combines both positions—that of the president and that of the ministers."

To convince the president, Haddad and Crusius used three interrelated arguments. They began by discussing the expected inflation rate and the differences among the rates reported by the individual economic research institutes. These differences have forced the Central Bank to avoid negative interest rates, Haddad said. Positive rates give investors a profit above inflation, prevent losses in institutions that receive investments, and prevent speculation with real assets like gold and dollars. The number

of working days of each month was the third argument. The fewer the number of days in the month, the higher the rate. The minister said the February inflation rate will be 43 percent and the March rate should be around 32 or 33 percent. Says Haddad: "The president agreed to possible technical adjustments on interest rates until the implementation of a program consistent with the country's economic situation."

The minister's position was strengthened following the meeting, having been rebutted by the president last Friday. He announced the interest rate increase and said that the government will never implement secret stabilization programs or announce packages of measures. He said that reversing the inflation rate trend is a consistent program that should deserve credibility. The minister added: "We are not just standing by, looking at variations in the inflation rate. We are fighting it, for example by reducing import tariffs. We will never adopt measures that could break contracts or create legal conflicts. We will never make confiscations."

Regarding the adoption of a plan in the Argentine style, Haddad clearly said that it is impossible to do that in Brazil.

Government To Use Reserves To Guarantee Bonds

PY0102202293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jan 93 Economic Section p 3

[Article by Ribamar Oliveira]

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Paulo Haddad will use between $4 and $5 billion of Brazil's international reserves, which amount to approximately $19 billion, to reschedule the domestic federal debt. To this end, bonds with exchange rate or monetary correction will be issued—guaranteed by international reserves—which can be exchanged for shorter-term certificates that are already in circulation. This will be like renegotiating the debt.

This operation may become part of the program for stabilization of the economy that the government is studying, and may begin after the successful implementation of the ongoing short-term measures and after meeting the basic conditions established by Minister Haddad. Among such conditions are the rescheduling of public debts and the recovery of market confidence.

The decision was made on the basis of an evaluation of the fiscal reform that was approved by the Chamber of Deputies. Based on a negotiated agreement, none of the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations (IPMF) will be used to redeem federal bonds in 1993 or 1994. The government planned to use 50 percent of the IPMF for this purpose.

Some political parties like the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] agreed that 30 percent of IPMF revenues may be used to redeem the bonds. For its support for the fiscal adjustment, the PT [Workers Party] demanded that IPMF revenues be entirely earmarked for social areas. The government had to yield. Unable to use the revenues from the new tax, and forced to reduce public indebtedness—which again threatens to snowball—the government came up with the idea of using part of its reserves.

Suggestion

Contrary to a proposal by former Planning and Finance Minister Delfim Netto (PDS [Democratic Social Party] - Sao Paulo), the reserves will not be used for public investment. Netto suggested that the government use the reserves to repair federal highways. Haddad's formula is different; the reserves will guarantee bonds that will be exchanged for certificates that are already in circulation. Those certificates amount to $37 billion.

New Intelligence Organization Proposed

PY0102204593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco will submit a proposal to Congress for the creation of a new intelligence organization. This was the main issue discussed at a meeting of the Armed Forces High Command last Friday. Planalto Palace released a note yesterday explaining that the new organization "will be different from the old SNI [National Intelligence Service]."

The note says the Armed Forces involvement in government social actions toward fighting misery and poverty—which was reported by GLOBO—was "carefully" studied during that meeting. The note adds that the subject of the intelligence services will be continued at the next meeting of the National Defense Council in March, and then submitted to Congress.

Roberto Freire, the People's Socialist Party deputy for Pernambuco and government leader in the House, said: "Every country needs an intelligence service to provide the government with strategic information for making decisions. This new organization will be different from the old SNI, which was a police organ for political persecution. That is over. At least I hope it is."

Possible Transfer of Russian Missile Technology

PY0202022693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jan 93 p 10

[Article by William Waack]

[Text] Moscow—Today Russia and India signed a series of commercial, diplomatic, and weapons agreements with which Russian President Boris Yeltsin intends to show that his country continues to pursue its own foreign policy, which advisers call "the turn toward the East" and toward the poorest countries. Yeltsin left for India, his third important visit to Asian countries in less than six months. He recently visited Korea and the PRC. Yeltsin's visit to India is especially significant for Brazil. It is said in Moscow that within the first half of this year

the Russian president intends to visit Latin America, especially Brazil, which Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev probably will visit in April. During the second half of this year Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is scheduled to visit Moscow.

Special Interest

One of the items, in particular, of the Russian-Indian agreements is of interest to Brazil. Today Yeltsin promised to sign, among other commercial, friendship, economic, and scientific agreements, a contract for the sale to India of technology for the production of rocket engines. Although the Russians may be determined to sell India two nuclear reactors (in 1974 India detonated its own nuclear device), the access to missile technology that Moscow grants to a country such as India has strongly annoyed the U.S. Government.

Brazil currently is negotiating with the Russians a contract for the purchase of technology for manufacturing surface-to-surface missiles with a range of less than 300 km. Russian sources stated yesterday that information on these negotiations immediately prompted an unspecified reaction by U.S. diplomats. The sources stated: "But we intend to continue our negotiations with the Brazilians as we had promised."

In the opinion of diplomats in Moscow, a series of factors are prompting the Russians to abandon their almost unconditional alignment with the behavior pattern of the main Western industrialized countries on subjects as delicate as the control of access to missile technology. Yeltsin and his foreign minister, Kozyrev, seem to be genuinely disappointed with the delay of the rich Western countries in granting Russia the financial and economic aid it needs to avoid collapse and social chaos. The Russians are especially upset by the number of conditions and the slowness of agreements with Western or multilateral agencies. An important Latin American diplomat, who is stationed in Moscow, ironically commented: "They knew how to deal with the Westerners when they were still enemies, but they do not have our experience in dealing with them as 'friends.'"

A Delicate Problem

In addition, Yeltsin and Kozyrev allegedly admitted that their critics in Parliament and the media were reasonably correct to say that by siding automatically with the Group of 7 (the wealthy countries' club) and avoiding any headache with the United States, the Russian Federation was abandoning its own positions and receiving nothing in exchange. This seems to be specifically the case related to the delicate problem of controlling missile technology. Gorbachev promised Bush in 1989 the Russian Federation would comply with these "suppliers' club" rules.

Recently, however, the Americans allegedly tried to replace "a list of prohibitions" on technologies and equipment, which was quite long, for a "positive list," i.e. a list of what could be sold. This would have been very bad business for the Russians because it would have left the market exclusively in the hands of the wealthy Western countries. The agreement with India, a country that purchased weapons and defense equipment from the former USSR for a long time, would therefore show that Moscow plans to tread its own path and become a power in Europe as well as in Asia.

The "turn toward the East" Yeltsin mentioned before leaving Moscow for India "is not aimed against anybody." The opening toward poor countries—which already included a review last year of relations with Cuba that was "abandoned" by Moscow after the disintegration of the Soviet Union—means the Russians are specifically engaged in opening new markets in which they hope to compete with effective and inexpensive technology that Western countries are not used to selling.

It was not accidental that the news agency ITAR-TASS reported yesterday, without any comment, the launch failure of the first Brazilian satellite by a U.S. company (the launch was to be made from a B-52 bomber). Before Brazil chose the U.S. offer, which was one of the last decisions made by the secretary of science and technology in the Collor administration, the Russians had offered to launch the same satellite, at a much lower price even, from one of their strategic submarines.

Chile

Presidential Hopeful Reitze Makes Statement

PY0102211193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cristian Reitze, presidential hopeful for the Humanist-Green Alliance, has asserted that neither Ricardo Lagos [Socialist Party presidential hopeful] nor Eduardo Frei [Christian Democratic Party presidential hopeful] are guaranteeing substantial change in the social field.

In his first statement after being proclaimed presidential hopeful by his party, Cristian Reitze Campos asserted that his candidacy does not seek to negotiate seats in Congress or any government posts.

Reitze said he represents those sectors of the country that are disappointed with the policy of continuity proposed by other candidates. He said:

[Begin Reitze recording] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy's leadership has not offered any changes so far in its priority projects that, apart from being boring, will bring problems because hundreds of thousands of people really want the changes that need to be implemented urgently. Therefore, we want to rescue that flame, that global feeling within the coalition, which seems to have lost its strength. [end recording]

Colombia

New Group Declares War on Pablo Escobar

PA0102185193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by Diego Sanchez]

[Text] On 1 February a new clandestine military organization that has declared open war on Pablo Escobar Gaviria and all the members of the Medellin Cartel revealed its existence in the capital of Antioquia.

In a communique, the new group called Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Perseguidos de Pablo Escobar—Pepes] warns that the confessed drug trafficker will pay with the same coin for the crimes he has perpetrated against innocent people and that it views as enemies everyone who works or collaborates with Escobar.

The self-styled Pepes warned Escobar Gaviria to cease all terrorist actions and asked the other members of the Medellin Cartel to join them.

The group claimed responsibility for the latest terrorist attacks in the El Poblado neighborhood in Medellin and the attack on 31 January at the La Cristalina farm owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria's mother.

In six vehicles, heavily armed unidentified individuals arrived at the farm owned by Hermilda Gaviria Escobar, Pablo's mother, where they dynamited the main structure after warning the servants to leave the premises. They are believed to be the same men who at dawn on 31 January detonated two car bombs in the El Poblado neighborhood in Medellin, near the residences of several relatives of Pablo Escobar.

The war is declared. The terms and the manner in which it may unfold are known. What remains unknown is how many more innocent people must die in this war.

President Gaviria Condemns Weekend Bomb Attacks

PA0202011193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2348 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria condemned all the bomb attacks that occurred over the weekend of 30-31 January. He included those attacks that affected relatives of Pablo Escobar, carried out by a group that announced the annihilation of the head of the Medellin Cartel. According to the president, the state is responsible for justice, and not the people. He reaffirmed that the attack in Santa Fe de Bogota, which killed 21 people, was ordered by Pablo Escobar, who he called a criminal and a liar.

After recalling these pictures of Yuri Marcela Jaimes, an eight-month-old victim of the 30 January attack, President Gaviria said that Escobar's mind is sick with hate for Colombia.

[Begin Gaviria recording] The people of Colombia reject these evil attacks by Escobar with indignation. We are prepared. [end recording]

Gaviria said that the guarantees for Escobar to turn himself in are still in effect as well as the efforts to pursue and capture him and to punish him without mercy. He rejected the attacks on the relatives of the criminal.

[Begin Gaviria recording] Terrorism cannot be met with more terrorism. We will fight these new terrorists with the same determination as we do Escobar. [end recording]

A summer home owned by Escobar's mother in El Penol was dynamited and two car bombs were detonated in Medellin near the homes of other relatives of the drug lord. These attacks were carried out by a clandestine group calling itself Pepes—Persecuted by Pablo Escobar—whose objective is to annihilate the cartel and its leader.

[Begin Gaviria recording] The members of our public forces and our security organizations are responsible for finding Escobar, and he must receive his punishment from our judges. [end recording]

President Gaviria announced he will take new measures against terrorism and guerrilla violence and extend the State of Internal Disturbance, which he will decide on during a 5 February meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Escobar Denies Involvement in Car Bombings

PA0202003493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2136 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Pablo Escobar Gaviria has sent a document to the media in which he practically denies his or his organization's responsibility for the 30 January car bomb attack in Santa Fe de Bogota. Escobar Gaviria also mentions his eventual surrender to the authorities and explains why he has not surrendered following his escape from La Catedral Prison. The two-page document is marked with Escobar Gaviria's thumb print and signed: Sincerely yours, Pablo Escobar. The original is addressed to the president of the Republic, and the carbon copy is addressed to the media.

Ecuador

Supreme Court Magistrate Zavala Resigns

PA2901185293 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Supreme Court Magistrate Jorge Zavala Baquerizo has resigned his post because he was not elected Supreme Court president. He argued that the president lied to him, because he promised to appoint him as Supreme Court president.

[Begin Zavala recording] I do not object to the fact that the president has the right to change his mind concerning

the appointment of one person. What I think was not right is the fact that I was not informed of that change in order to ask my party that I not be appointed Supreme Court magistrate. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, since I was not appointed Supreme Court president and my contribution to pass the new reforms is not needed, I tendered my resignation as Supreme Court magistrate before the president of the Honorable Congress. [end recording]

Dr. Zavala Baquerizo is annoyed because the executive did not support his candidacy to the position of Supreme Court president.

Financial Agreement To Cover Oil Price Drops

PA2901190493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Monetary Board has negotiated a financial coverage agreement to cover the risk of unexpected drops in the price of oil. According to the board, this step will give confidence to investors who will be able to make investments without fear that the country's economy will suddenly deteriorate. This instrument, a sort of insurance, will cost the country several million dollars, which exceeds the amount Ecuador would have had to pay OPEC. Jorge Gallardo, former finance minister, admits that it is a positive move, but adds that it is too costly.

[Begin Gallardo recording] We see that the argument that Ecuador could not pay $1.5 million per year to belong to OPEC is baseless, because we are now paying close to $10 or $20 million in premiums to maintain the price of oil. Therefore, I describe the position of not joining OPEC as a reflection of the idiosyncrasy and the [word indistinct] of those who are in power, who believe that the further removed we are from the international organizations representing third world interests, the more progressive and prosperous we will be. [end recording]

Ana Lucia Armijos, manager of the Ecuadoran Central Bank, believes the Monetary Board's authorization for the Central Bank to negotiate financial coverage agreements will not affect oil production. Armijos said those instruments have nothing to do with oil market operations. Armijos added the Central Bank does not interfere with the marketing of oil and that the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise is still responsible for oil sales. Armijos stated, however, that if the price of oil drops lower than the contract price, the Central Bank will receive revenues that will compensate for the fall and could transfer this surplus to the public sector.

Paraguay

Colorado President Criticizes U.S. Ambassador

PY2901191593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p 23

[Text] Blas N. Riquelme, president of the ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party] executive board, yesterday criticized Ambassador Jon Glassman because "he interferes in our domestic affairs too much." The ANR president reasserted that he is concerned about the situation, adding that he does not agree with the U.S. diplomat's attitude. Riquelme also urged Glassman to limit his activities to his normal diplomatic duties.

Riquelme was asked yesterday his views on the meeting that [ANR] presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana and his running mate, Juan Bautista Ybanez, held with U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman. The meeting, which lasted one hour, was held at the U.S. Embassy on 27 January.

There has been complete secrecy surrounding the issues discussed during this meeting, and the participants have declined to make any comments to the media. The U.S. Embassy was asked again yesterday to supply information about the meeting, but to no avail.

Asked about the meeting, Riquelme said: "Ambassador Jon Glassman interferes in our domestic affairs too much. He is running after politicians and government officials all day long, and he meddles in our affairs..."

He added: "In my capacity as ANR president, I am concerned about this situation, and I do not agree with it. Ambassadors have other duties. I have no idea what was discussed at that meeting. Glassman makes too many statements. He does things no other ambassador has ever done before here. We can solve our problems by ourselves. He should abide by international regulations and not interfere in domestic affairs."

ANR sources commented yesterday that Riquelme has recently adopted a critical attitude regarding the U.S. ambassador. It was stated that a few days ago Riquelme declined an invitation by Glassman to meet at the U.S. Embassy.

Moreover, "Argana followers" yesterday tried to make the most of the meeting with Glassman. There were rumors that the "Yankee" Embassy is sponsoring a negotiated solution to the crisis brought on by the Colorado Party primaries on the basis of the victory of the Argana-Ybanez ticket.

Says Actions May Hinder Ties

PY3001144293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] In view of the release of a U.S. Embassy communique on comments made by him on 29 January, Blas N. Riquelme, president of the Colorado Party [ANR—

National Republican Association] executive board, made comments again yesterday about U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman. The politician reasserted that he disagrees with Glassman's statements on domestic issues.

Riquelme said the U.S. ambassador should "calm down" and not make public statements. As an example he said that Glassman was the first one to learn about Colonel Luis Gonzalez Rojas' arrest. He added: "No one knew about it, but he already knew where Gonzalez Rojas was." Riquelme also said the U.S. ambassador "holds meetings and says the president has promised him that the elections will be held in May. Who does the U.S. ambassador believe he is to think he merits the president's commitment about the date the elections will be held?"

Riquelme said Glassman has no right to call on the president to ask him when general elections will be held. He stated: "He has no right or obligation to call on [convocar] the president to ask him when elections will be held. I disagree with this."

Riquelme said he hopes something like this will not happen again because, he said, if a similar situation arises in the future, it may undermine Paraguayan-U.S. ties. He said: "I do not believe this will happen again because it will undermine the existing good ties between the United States and Paraguay. The United States has a very dynamic ambassador, but I think he is going too far. I am sincerely telling him that he should calm down."

The ANR president admitted that Glassman had visited him at his residence. In this regard, he said: "I am not referring to the meetings he holds with Colorado Party leaders. [Or for us] to discuss matters. This is only natural. It is true that the U.S. ambassador has visited me at my home, and I am honored and proud to welcome him as many times as he wishes. But I disagree with publicizing his views and thoughts through the press. Furthermore, I believe that there is not a single Paraguayan citizen, much less a Colorado Party member, who would approve of this."

Riquelme reasserted that he welcomes the holding of personal negotiations but not the publicity given to these negotiations. He said: "I welcome all personal and friendly negotiations. Moreover, I praise the U.S. ambassador for his interest in wanting to meet [political] leaders. But I reassert that I have never nor will I ever approve of granting intense publicity to the U.S. ambassador's activities."

Seifart Dismisses U.S. Embassy 'Meddling'

PY3001211893 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Angel Roberto Seifart, Juan Carlos Wasmosy's running mate [in the deadlocked 27 December Colorado Party primary] dismissed any meddling by the U.S. Embassy in the crisis currently affecting the Colorado Party.

The political leader said: "The truth is that I am not aware of any direct interference by the U.S. Embassy. I am only aware of some statements made by Glassman, or the communique on the need to strengthen the democratic process in our country. We would have to ask the ambassador or those affected by such interference to explain."

"Personally, I have not seen anything to indicate that. I do not think the ambassador is making the calls. I think politicians are the ones who are going to the embassy. That is what I think is happening," Seifart said.

The politician then wondered: "What can an ambassador do about the internal crisis of a political party? Perhaps it would have been different had the crisis been at a national level, involving various political forces. In our political history we have had experience of that kind of meddling. But at the moment why would a foreign mission care about an internal crisis?"

"I understand the concern of all democrats in the hemisphere, not because the crisis involves a ruling party, but because it involves the largest party in the country, with 60 percent of the electorate at the national level. It is perfectly normal that this situation should be of concern to any democrat on the continent," Seifart said. [passage omitted]

Colorado Presidential Hopeful Issues Communique

PY0102205793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 6

[Paid advertisement—communique by Senator Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, a Colorado Party presidential hopeful, from Piribebuy on 29 January]

[Text] Distressed by the agonizing crisis affecting the National Republican Association [Colorado Party], I address these reflections to my fellow party members. They are meant to be a contribution to solving this serious problem that is threatening to frustrate the party's participation in the May election.

What is happening is the consequence of the party leadership's refusal, since the 1989 revolution, to produce a clean electoral registration list reflecting Colorado Party followers' real numbers.

We refused to participate in the election of convention delegates and party Executive Board members because we knew the results would be contested due to the legal flaws tarnishing the instruments used to elect those delegates and leaders.

The indifference to our public proposal to elaborate a totally clean electoral list was undoubtedly due to the interest of some political leaders in preserving their positions of privilege because they had doubts whether Colorado followers would accept them as leaders.

This situation turned any internal electoral result doubtful and conflictive. Today the situation has turned into a crisis threatening to make the designation of Colorado Party candidates to participate in the May election within the terms established by the Constitution impossible.

The crisis is denying the Colorado Party the possibility of remaining in power.

Party leaders fighting this futile, aggressive, and immature struggle must put their suicidal and dogmatic factionalism aside and agree to a list of candidates representing all Colorados, whatever their particular position in the party.

The serious national problems we must face and solve during the next presidential term force us to be aware that we cannot squander our time in personal confrontations lacking all ideological content. This struggle is nothing other than a dispute for power quotas, and those involved are not recognizing our party's duty to the nation's future.

This is a time for renunciations based on an elementary and clear concept or else the Colorado Party, due to leaders with the wrong political attitude, will lose the chance to contest the May election.

I call attention to the party's very grave situation. Generations of Paraguayans sacrificed themselves for it and deserve their leaders' deepest respect.

Gustavo Diaz de Vivar
Piribebuy, 29 January 1993

PLRA Candidate Launches Presidential Campaign

PY0102202493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Feb 93 pp 2-3

[Excerpts] Coronel Oviedo—With a huge crowd estimated at about 100,000, the Authentic Radial Liberal Party [PLRA] yesterday officially launched the presidential race of its ticket for the 9 May elections. The main speaker at the rally was [PLRA presidential candidate] Domingo Laino, who said he is certain of a PLRA victory based on his theory that Paraguayan peasants and workers are unwilling to continue supporting the presence in the government of a political-military leadership that gives privileges to "the corrupt and crooks."

The rally, which was described as "unprecedented" by Liberal Party [PL] politicians and members of other PL factions who attended it, was held at the Heroes Plaza in Colonel Oviedo, capital of Caaguazu Department. The rally was supposed to start at 0900, but there was a delay in the schedule.

The first to speak was Peter Holden Kennedy, who is running for the Caaguazu Department governorship. Kennedy thanked the different delegations for their attendance because, he said, it shows the PLRA's rallying power. He said: "These are the Liberal people who have faith, and trust their party because they believe this is the party that will bring better days to our country." [passage omitted]

Domingo Laino was the last speaker. After discussing the current national situation, he harshly criticized how the Colorado Party is running the government. He said: "We have a savage, big, and mercenary government that, to a large extent, is ruled by thieves. The Colorado-military leadership has implemented an economic policy that is at the service of bad Paraguayans. The tax law is not upheld in our country. It is mere rhetoric."

The PLRA presidential candidate also said he is certain of the PLRA's victory in the general elections scheduled for May. He said: "With tanks, or without, no matter what, a PLRA member will be elected president in 1993."

Also present at the PLRA rally were leaders from other PL factions and opposition parties such as Luis Alfonso Resck, from the Christian Democratic Party; Ricardo Canesse, from the 26 May Movement; Abraham Zapag, from the National Alliance; and Leandro Prieto Yegros, a Colorado Party member running on an independent ticket. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the rally in Coronel Oviedo, Laino said: "In view of the grim socioeconomic situation, the PLRA government program has emerged with great force. Ours is a very clear philosophy: Economic development with justice and equality for the Paraguayan people."

He asserted: "In view of this, I want to point out an important point included in our government program that reads: All Paraguayans will be equal before the law. No one can complain if the law is implemented fairly."

Laino said the PLRA government's objectives are very clear. He added that it proposes promoting the growth of the gross domestic product and policies to attract productive capital, both at the domestic and international level, to combat the unemployment of more than 500,000 Paraguayans and of the more than 500 people who leave our country daily to look for food and jobs outside our borders because they are unable to do so in their own land.

Laino asked: "Why is it that Paraguay is such a rich country but has very poor people?" In this regard he said: "This is a question worth pondering. First of all, as we already said, the state is uncivilized, large, corrupt, and full of privileges. To some extent, the state is in the hands of thieves. Second, there is an economic policy drawn up by the Colorado Party-military leadership that gives privileges to the corrupt and crooks, the bad Paraguayans. Third, the tax laws are not obeyed in our country. The tax laws are dead legislation. The very rich do not pay what they must pay; they are the most fortunate and the wealthiest."

Laino indicated that the big thieves "steal amounts equal to $400 million, $800 million. They are not cattle

thieves; they are the very rich who, in association with the Colorado Party-military leadership, commit fraud against the state and steal from the poor peasants and the country."

In reference to his proposal for a political-military dialogue, Laino said people want the dialogue because they no longer want infighting among brothers. He added: "We want peace, understanding; we want a clear agreement between politicians and military leaders because we will no longer allow interference in the Paraguayan electoral process. We want free elections but we also demand clean elections."

Poll Shows Caballero Vargas Leading

PY0102210693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 4

[Summary] According to a Communications and Art Institute poll, presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas of the National Encounter movement is leading in the presidential race. The poll shows that 51 percent of the people questioned in the poll [number not specified] believe Caballero Vargas will be elected president in May. The Colorado Party, which still has to name a candidate, came in second in the poll with 30 percent, while Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party and independent Ricardo Canese came in third, getting only 9 percent between them. The undecided were about 10 percent. The poll was carried out in Asuncion, Encarnacion, Coronel Oviedo, and Ciudad del Este from 14 to 20 January. The poll also shows that 61 percent will vote for whom they believe is the best candidate regardless of the candidate's party, while 39 percent will vote for their party whoever the presidential candidate is. The poll also indicates that people want the elections to be held as scheduled on 9 May.

Peru

Fujimori Interviewed on 'Counterpoint' Program

PA0102171593 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Luis Iberico on the "Counterpoint" program at the Presidential Palace in Lima—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Iberico] Is Alberto Fujimori among the possible candidates for 1995?

[Fujimori] I repeat, I have a commitment that expires on 28 July 1995. Nobody will oust me before then even though there could be other coup attempts. I repeat, I have no intention—some say stubbornness—of seeking reelection. I will leave the country in peace and feel the satisfaction of having set the country on the right course. [passage omitted]

[Iberico] I wish to ask a very specific question. Is there a chance you will grant pardons to the soldiers after the military court tries them and hands down a ruling? Are you willing to grant pardons?

[Fujimori] Once the entire process is over and responsibilities, motives, and goals of the 13 November conspiracy are determined, we could, in due time, grant pardons after evaluations are made. We will, however, grant no pardons before then under no circumstances, because....

[Iberico, interrupting] Are you willing to....

[Fujimori, continuing] We must clarify, for example, which retired or active officers had plotted to assassinate the president of the republic. This is an issue that must be clarified anyway. Of course, the possibility of pardons exists and I am obviously willing to grant them, but within this reasonable framework. We will not allow anyone to create political instability in the country. [passage omitted]

[Iberico] Another issue that worries the international community, including recently elected U.S. President Bill Clinton, [laughs] is freedom of speech in Peru at a time when we are debating the crime of abetting terrorism in the media and given the possibility that some form of censorship will be established. What is your opinion on this situation which is being commented on in the halls of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] and reported by various media?

[Fujimori] If the U.S. State Department voiced concern over this issue it is because it has received distorted reports. I urge you or any reporter, any media, to take a look at the 20 newspapers published in Lima and tell me whether it is not true 19 out of 20 are openly critical of the government. Take a look at the three weekly magazines published in Lima and tell me which one is facing any restriction. Do they not say everything they wish? They could say even more if they wanted but risk continued loss of credibility. There is absolute freedom of the press and speech here.

Do the three highest rated television political programs not enjoy total freedom? Of course they do. I promote debate. I have been criticized by them. This is why I appear on them now and then to defend myself. This is a concern of the government. We, however, disagree—and I think other countries would also—with the free circulation of newspapers such as EL DIARIO or CAMBIO affiliated with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA]. I wonder if there is a democracy-loving political leader or citizen who agrees with the circulation of these newspapers?

[Iberico] Of course not but....

[Fujimori, interrupting] And if they do, they should say it. This is clear. I am not involved in the drafting of the article pertaining to freedom of the press. It must, however, be specified clearly, through some sort of provision, that the Shining Path newspaper should not circulate as others....

[Iberico, interrupting] Intervening, however, in the [words indistinct] media's reporting on terrorism when we know perfectly we have not and will never support terrorism worries us.

[Fujimori] We all agree on that. Perhaps there is still a straying politician out there, but we all have a common goal: the country's pacification. Mr. Iberico, the country's pacification, implies that these fanatical ideas of the Shining Path and the MRTA are not deceiving our people, the [word indistinct] people.

This is why we will exercise this control—notice I used the word control—of the media. We will not attack freedom of speech. Criticism may come from every quarter. This is my position: The Congress should draft the corresponding article establishing full freedom of the press and speech, but not to abet terrorism. As for how this will be stated, well, politicians are experts on....

[Iberico, interrupting] This, however, leaves this issue to subjective considerations and this is what.... [pauses, laughs]

[Fujimori] This should be left to no one's subjectivity. Freedom of the press should be exercised as it has been for the past two and a half years of this administration; as it has never been possible before. [laughs] This is why when the term dictatorship is mentioned, foreign analysts come here and wonder: What dictatorship are they talking about if everyone criticizes the government? The government does not own a single media. I do not even own 1 percent of the stock of any media.

[Iberico] Mr. President, we would like to ask you a very specific question...

[Fujimori, interrupting] I am sorry, but did I clearly answer your question regarding freedom of the press?

[Iberico] Perfectly.

[Fujimori] If not, please let me know.

[Iberico] We hope it is also clear to the CCD.

[Fujimori] Mr. Iberico, what happens is that when politicians want to make a scandal out of some subject, they try to. They believe they can earn points that way, but those traditional political stances will be useless. People will not believe them.

[Iberico] I have a very specific question, Mr. President. The possibility has been mentioned that Abimael Guzman Reynoso could be transferred from El Fronton prison to a naval prison in Lima, on the Rimac River. What can you tell us about that? Is it true?

[Fujimori] Not on the Rimac, but he will be transferred to a higher security prison. It is the government's responsibility and prerogative to take the highest precautions to prevent this criminal from escaping. I can assure you we will not have another Polay case with Abimael, or a case of escape because of alleged sickness like in 1982, which I reiterate was true. We can discuss that matter later. It is important that citizens know how this subject has evolved and that everyone understands his political responsibilities. I apologize for being so frank. As I said, it is true that Abimael Guzman will be transferred, as other Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] criminals have been transferred.

[Iberico] Is there not enough security at El Fronton?

[Fujimori] He is not in El Fronton; he is in San Lorenzo.

[Iberico] Yes, in San Lorenzo.

[Fujimori] There is tight security there, but we want even more security, so there will be absolutely no possibility of escape. He will serve his life sentence. He will not escape. He must pay for the death of 25,000 innocent Peruvians.

This also applies to other terrorists who must serve life sentences, and those who are still at large. There are three more. Shining Path members who do not accept the benefits of the repentance law will have the same fate. I will take advantage of your widely viewed program to send a message to any Shining Path or MRTA member who may be watching this program. If you do not want to spend the rest of your life in jail, you have a chance. The repentance law will exempt you from that punishment as long as you collaborate in the struggle against terrorism. I know some individuals joined the Shining Path and the MRTA because they were pressured with weapons, threats, or lies. I repeat, you are being given an opportunity. You can approach a religious, military, or police authority, or even write me directly, as several have done. You can avoid the severity of jails, which really exist now. Mr. Iberico, I invite you to report truthfully on the current situation at the Castro Castro Jail. It is no longer the golden jail, where a training center operated.

[Iberico] We accept the invitation. We will try to visit that jail this week.

[Fujimori] It would be very interesting if you informed citizens and the entire world about penal reform in Peru.

[Iberico] One last subject, Mr. President, which also causes concern: The case of Navy officers implicated in a huge theft of funds from the naval attache's office in Washington. It is said that former officer Villa Garcia and Admiral Simpson have confessed in U.S. courts to crimes such as fraud, hoax, and falsification of documents, which are very serious crimes. Here the military judge in charge of the investigation has simply charged those implicated with negligence.

[Fujimori] I do not know if this is part of a campaign to relieve high officers implicated in the case of their responsibility and not punish them for this embezzlement from the Navy, which I believe totals $11.5 million. Those were Navy funds. It has even been said that part of those funds belong to the pension fund. So you can imagine how serious this is.

I have heard statements on political programs that the government has dismissed officers because it wants to conceal the real perpetrators, which is totally false. People already know that every time there is a case of corruption and investigations begin to discover the real perpetrators, the government is attacked. Commander Villa Garcia is currently under arrest in a U.S. jail. He is not there because Commander Bustamante or the other officers put him there. No. Commander Villa Garcia was arrested because here, in my office, we decided to establish a strategy so that U.S. judicial authorities would detain him and send him to jail. Once in jail, we would contact him.

I have said before that we would not negotiate with Mr. Villa Garcia while he was free, that is, negotiate with him to give us the names of those responsible, the bank account numbers, and so on, No. That would be naive, and I am not doing it. First he was arrested. He is already under arrest. He was placed under arrest in less than three weeks after eight months elapsed with nothing. Not only this, but one of the previous Navy commission members replied when asked by Admiral [Alfredo] Arnao that the funds that were in the American Security Bank had been transferred to another bank, the Potomac Bank. In other words, it was believed that the money was in the American Security Bank and had been transferred, but the truth was that there was not one penny.

Now we shall discuss what we want from Mr. Villa Garcia, who is now under arrest after having admitted to 113 crimes being investigated by the United States. Our request is that he cooperate with the government to reduce his sentence. The idea behind this cooperation is to uncover the persons responsible, who are the highest-ranking Navy officers involved in this embezzlement against the Navy and Peru.

[Iberico] What about esprit de corps?

[Fujimori] Of course all Navy officers, most of them, practically unanimously with the exception of those involved, favor moralization.

[Iberico, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Fujimori] We have the Armed Forces' support to moralize. Imagine a Navy officer of any rank who is concerned about the whereabouts of $11.5 million belonging to the Navy. This is a case where we have to unmask the high-ranking Navy officers—I say high-ranking, I am not interested in the small-fry—the high-ranking Navy officers who have committed this robbery. This is where I ask you, my friends of the press, not to be afraid. I ask myself: When have the media reported on mismanagement of funds in the Armed Forces? Never, so far never. Moralization is a responsibility that involves all of us, particularly the media. [coughs] Excuse me. I also say that it is not just a question of seeking out those responsible from any institution, no matter how important the post may be, but to find those responsible and punish them. I disapprove of the attitude of certain media that take advantage of this obvious power. Fortunately citizens do not listen to them when they report lies to cover for those who are really responsible. I have already mentioned the Military Industries of Peru [INDUMIL PERU] case involving a $2.5-million embezzlement from the Army. Efforts are being made to cover up this case through a simple one year punishment. That was my argument against General Arciniegas [in exile in Argentina]. We have to be clear in this respect. Here we moralize the country from the top. We have no untouchables. Everyone has that responsibility, and that is why I am not going to censor the media when one of them attempts to hide something. Of course not. But I will evaluate the information and say that it is a lie, just as I did with CARETAS, which I clearly rejected. I am not going to deal with each and every case because the lies of certain media are so frequent that I would have to spend hours on television. In flagrant cases, however, the information will be evaluated, not the media, for the government's internal use and in some cases to tell the public this is a lie, this is false, this is a journalistic falsehood. Why? Because the citizens have the right to know the truth.

[Iberico] Mr. President, I thank you for this interview, and of course I have to face up to the responsibility of my "Counterpoint" program, where you yourself have seen that we have no qualms about reporting on this and many other cases with the evidence and documents at hand.

[Fujimori] I hope you prepare a program about the INDUMIL PERU case and remind the public and Armed Forces officers how this embezzlement took place. You do your investigation and suggest what punishment those responsible deserve. Do not keep quiet because it is general so-and-so or admiral so-and-so. You need to be clear. We need to overcome our fear of the corrupt. The corrupt have lots of money, they have millions and are quite capable of bribing people. I hope to receive your support in this frontal struggle.

[Iberico] You may be sure, Mr. President, that we will investigate the INDUMIL PERU case, and we hope to receive the help we need from the presidential palace to expose this embezzlement case to the public.

[Fujimori] In the [word indistinct] and the Navy cases, please organize an objective program as well and say who has been covering up, what the government procedures have been, what long procedures the commission used, and what its current situation is.

[Iberico] Many thanks, Mr. President. Rest assured that we will do so.

Officers Behind Coup Attempt Demand Inquiry

PY2901224793 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 18 Jan 93 p A9

[Statement by military officers arrested in connection with the coup attempt staged on 13 November 1992]

[Text] To public opinion:

We, the officers who took part in the rebellion of 13 November—and who have lodged charges of torture against Mr. Vladimiro Montecinos Torres [President Fujimori's legal adviser], OO [expansion unknown] personnel, and junior officers from the SIN [National Intelligence Service]—have much to our surprise and dismay learned that the attorney general has submitted a report to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] in which she dismisses our complaint, shelves the inquiry, and closes the case.

Is this the way justice works in our country? Is this proof of the attorney general's efficiency? It is precisely due to this efficiency that the fundamental rights of an individual, enshrined in the 1979 Constitution, are not respected in our country.

The attorney general alleges the following arguments as the reason for rejecting our complaint, namely the study of forensic experts' medical certificates and reports, and the inspection of the sites reported as torture centers. What did they expect? For the SIN officers to admit that they had tortured us? They overlook the fact that the examination carried out by the forensic doctor was performed 10 days after the date we were tortured, and that the skill of the Technical Police in such actions consists precisely in not leaving any marks that could give them away. Neither those who suffered torture (four officers) nor witnesses were summoned to testify; nor were the facts reconstructed so that the CCD might be able to base their judgement on a report consistent with the truth.

We hereby urge the national and international public to follow our trial closely, because these facts show that it is clearly biased and has attributes bearing comparison with Ripley's believe-it-or-not. The prosecution is furthermore asking for a 15-year prison sentence and payment of $25 million in damages for having attempted to rebel—a right enshrined in the Constitution. It must be pointed out that not even one shot was fired, no casualties were reported, not even one window pane was broken. The uproar was sparked by government communique No. 01.

We reaffirm our charges of torture against former Captain Vladimiro Montecinos Torres, Retired, and against OO personnel and National Police officers; and demand that an effective, fair investigation into this case be made.

[dated] Lima, 15 January 1993
[signed] Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Aguilar del Alcazar, Identification No. 105706500
Lieutenant Colonel Marcos Zarate Rota, Identification No. 107728700
Major Cesar Caceres Haro, Identification No. 107107600
Major Salvador Carmona Bernasconi (retired), Identification No. 09536006

Shining Path Actions in Lima Area Viewed

PY3001205093 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p A10

[Summary] "With the killing of Rolando Galindo, the Villa El Salvador shanty town deputy mayor, by a Shining Path commando group, the sinister organization has reappeared in this district as well as in other Lima shanty towns." With this killing Shining Path intends to reappear in Villa El Salvador.

Deputy Mayor Rolando Galindo was assassinated on 11 January. According to Specialist Jaime Antezana, a Population Development Promotion Center, Ceprodep, specialist, the organization's inability to win over new converts has compelled Shining Path to resort to violence to reappear in the area.

Antezana says that Shining Path intends to control the area through harassment and stoppages. In January, it distributed pamphlets and painted graffiti urging people not to participate in the elections.

"In 1992, Shining Path perpetrated 35 attacks in Villa El Salvador. According to figures supplied by the Institute for the Defense of the Law [IDL], it killed 10 civic leaders."

In 1987, Shining Path launched a campaign against Villa El Salvador because it wanted to destroy a successful autonomous community administration which had served as a role model for other shanty towns in the area. It began to expand its influence in 1990, in view of municipal problems and under the shadow of other political parties. It centered its operations from Pachacamac.

In Pachacamac, Shining Path was able to achieve leadership positions and to establish a so-called Combat Committee to promote the invasion of private lots.

It centered its activities in the so-called fourth sector. "According to shanty town dwellers, Shining Path was able to establish control over the area. It established a fee of up to 20 soles. Those who did not attend the Combat Committee meetings had the electricity cut in their homes or were evicted."

We had to support them because they defended us from the owners of the lots who came to evict us.

At the time, the Combat Committee launched a fierce campaign against district officials and a slander campaign against Galindo's predecessor, Maria Elena Moyano, who was later killed.

In 1992, Shining Path failed in its efforts to mobilize settlers when Villa El Salvador Mayor Yoni Rodriguez launched a successful census campaign to identify and deactivate the Shining Path leadership in the Pachacamac fourth district.

Since then, Shining Path has realized it will be unable to take over Villa El Salvador through social reprisals.

In view of this, it has again resorted to the use of violence. In the end, the killings of Rolando Galindo and Maria Elena Moyano constitute the admission of their humiliating defeat.

"Other Shining Path tactics in the district were to infiltrate important organizations to promote divisions." They took over key organizations in Villa El Salvador such as the Villa El Salvador Self-Administered Urban Community (Cuaves) and the Small and Medium-Sized Industrialists Association (Apemives).

"Although Cuaves Leader Filadelfo Roa and Apemives Leader Maximo Huarcaya deny any Shining Path connections, the truth is that during their administration there was an obvious increase in Shining Path's influence, particularly at the sixth Cuaves convention held in mid-1992."

"Among the 'conclusions' appearing in pamphlets signed by the Combat Committee were 'to eradicate the Cuaves, deactivate the municipality, and repel the presence of the armed and police forces.'"

Today the Cuaves is partially deactivated, and Villa El Salvador Mayor Yoni Rodriguez, who has received several death threats, is Shining Path's main target.

"Rodriguez said: 'For Shining Path, Villa El Salvador is a stumbling block. The government should reinforce the popular organizations. They are the ones that challenge Shining Path.'"

In the south, Shining Path is also present in two other Lima districts: Villa Maria del Triunfo and San Juan de Miraflores. In 1992 there were 24 attacks and 10 people killed in Villa Maria del Triunfo, and there were 30 attacks and seven people killed in San Juan de Miraflores.

Combas, to the north, seems to be a key Lima district for Shining Path. In 1992 there were 52 attacks and 32 people killed in Combas.

In mid-1992 the police had indications about the presence of Shining Path in some shanty towns such as San Ramon, Carmen Alto, Dios es Amor, and Nueva Esperanza. But it is in Carabayllo where Shining Path acts with open defiance. Before Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman's arrest, Shining Path terrorists frequently threatened local parishes and charity organizations to get them to cease providing social assistance programs.

"Just a few weeks ago, Shining Path killed a candidate running for the Los Olivos city hall. Although Shining Path's presence in the area is recent, community leaders fear that it may rapidly spread its influence because local community organizations pose no resistance."

In 1992, Los Olivos was the district with the third greatest number of terrorist attacks in all of Lima. There were 48 attacks and 31 people were killed.

"Moreover, Shining Path is also reportedly present in the Confraternidad, Bocanegra, and Laura Caller shanty towns, which are located nearby the Callao district borderline."

Shining Path Pressuring Judicial Branch

PY2901214593

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 20 January publishes on page A14 an unattributed 600-word article on the influence of the Shining Path organization on the judicial branch, noting the case of Pompeyo Javier Rivera Terres, aka "Commander Huayhuaco," who is a leader of the Apurimac River Valley Peasant Patrols, "one of the most important organizations in the fight against Shining Path." The article adds that Huayhuaco was in prison for 22 months, a "victim of the new strategy" used by Shining Path members "to send their worst enemies to jail for long periods of time." The article explains that the strategy involves Shining Path being helped by "bad" members of the judicial branch, "who yield to pressure and threats" and open inquiries against leaders of the Peasant Patrols, noting that these legal inquiries are opened "by members of the Democratic Lawyers Association." The article then states that together with Huayhuaco "several of his closest aides, who had inflicted serious damage on the subversives," had also been arrested, and that arrest warrants had also been filed against 80 additional Peasant Patrol leaders. Among others, the article notes that Corpus Llacctahuaman Quicana and Jacinto Castro Canchuhuaman, who had been arrested and sent to Canto Grande jail on terrorism charges, "are now held in the cell block reserved for Shining Path members," where their lives are at risk.

The article claims that "there is conniving between Shining Path and judicial branch officials and prosecutors." While Marciano Poma Rebatta was La Mar Province prosecutor, the article concludes, 11 similar cases had been reported to him, and "instead of sending them to the police for investigation, he immediately ordered the arrest" of each of the 11 involved.

Venezuela

Copei Leader Announces Presidential Campaign

PA3101162193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1706 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Speech by Eduardo Fernandez, Social Christian Party, Copei, leader, at the Tamanaco Hotel in Caracas on 28 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I wish to announce formally my decision to begin a campaign to become president of Venezuela in the next elections. [applause] I will be the candidate of hope because I want to be the president of change. [applause] I want you to join me in announcing to Venezuela a new dawn. I want to share with you some

ideas I regard as fundamental in the country. First, the change that, together, we can effect in this country. Second, my view of Venezuela. Third, the two basic proposals I want to present in my program. The change I propose can be summed up in a single sentence: To make Venezuela work for everyone, not only for privileged groups. To make Venezuela experience economic growth, with large investments, with new, modern, productive jobs with good salaries, and above all, with equal opportunities for all. We can do it. Other countries have succeeded. For instance, Taiwan was an island lost in the Pacific 30 years ago. Now, its inhabitants have a per capita income of more than $8,000 and the country's international reserves amount to $70 billion. If they succeeded, why can we not succeed, too?

It is not necessary to go such a distance. There are countries on our continent that are succeeding also, such as Chile and Mexico. If they are doing it, why can Venezuelans not do it also? Successful countries are doing just three things I want to do as president. First, to leave in the past the ideas that belong to the past. To forget about socialism, populism, and the economic and political theories that failed and proved unsuccessful everywhere in the world. Second, to open the door to private investments, local and international. Finally, to make a great effort in matters of educating and training people. This is exactly what I want to do as president of Venezuela. This is what all successful countries in the world have done. Dear friends, I want to lead the nation in an effort so we Venezuelans can become self-confident again, so we can say in unison: We Venezuelans can turn this country into a modern, hopeful, and optimistic country. [applause]

Geographically speaking, Venezuela is located at the midpoint of the Western hemisphere. I want to put Venezuela at the lead of Latin America's economic development. [applause] This campaign must be based on Venezuela's future. We are tired of wasting time in discussing the past. I will wage a dignified struggle, debating the things that truly interest the Venezuelan people. I will do it with great respect for the Venezuelan people's intelligence. I will tell you my truth. I am convinced that, together, we can change this country. I am proud to have spoken on behalf of democracy on 4 February and 27 November. [applause] I know I have had to pay a high political price for this. Yet I would do it again all the same. [applause] With the aid of the people and the Armed Forces, the country was saved from the tragedy of a coup. Now we have to save the right to advance in peace, freedom, and social justice. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, my purpose is very clear. To take care of two things, produce more and distribute better. There is no better way to distribute than through education and training. Instead of giving away a fish, teach how to fish. [applause] If you want to stay where you are, if you want to depend on the miseries of populism and yesterday's policies, if you are satisfied with little and accept a compromise for even less, I am not your candidate. [applause] If you want a chance, are willing to work, to be trained to have a worthy, productive, and well-paid job; if you want to shape your own future; if you want to earn your own living with your work, support me and help me change Venezuela. [applause] This is the time to make decisions for Venezuela's future instead of voting for the past. This is why I am beginning my presidential campaign. I do it with excitement and gladness. I will campaign to win. I will win to struggle and give Venezuela a new dawn. Thanks. [applause]

Sucre AD Candidate Agrees With New Elections

PA0102025793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Interview with Gaston Navarro Dona, Democratic Action Party, AD, candidate for governor in Sucre State, by unidentified correspondent in Caracas—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Welcome to our program. The AD seems to have adopted a stubborn position and has not shown willingness to find a solution to the problem in Sucre State. What is your position?

[Navarro] My position is absolutely clear. If the AD leadership decides that the best solution would be to repeat the 6 December elections, if everything is clear and another political agreement is reached, there is no problem. We will go to the elections. We will see what the conditions are, if there are no changes in the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], what the rules are, if the same coalition of parties that joined for the past elections remain united. We have no objections.

[Reporter] Do you mean that although you believe you won the elections you would be willing to participate in new elections?

[Navarro] There is no doubt we would accept that decision. Of course, it is not funny to be seen as an electoral clown, to know that there are people who want to play with you, to make you participate in elections and then not tell you how many votes you received. That is very sad. It is playing with the people's good faith.

[Reporter] Why do you consider yourself the governor-elect of Sucre?

[Navarro] Because I obtained the necessary votes. The germ that led to the annulment of the elections was created when Ramon Martinez was wrongly proclaimed winner by a margin of 272 votes. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So the only thing you want is to receive the numbers?

[Navarro] I want to know the election results.

[Reporter] The problem is you will not get those numbers.

[Navarro] No, I know that. It has been decided now to call new elections. We do not know if the previous

elections were declared null. This has created a dispute on whether elections will be held again, or if there will be new elections, although both things are the same.

[Reporter] Yes. That is not the real problem. Do you think you could defeat Ramon Martinez by a wide margin, as you must?

[Navarro] I have no doubt. If the AD members—the 90,000 registered members—go to vote, there is no doubt we will win the elections again.

[Reporter] Even members of the Social Christian Party, Copei, in Sucre would vote for you?

[Navarro] Of course they would. Many did, because they disagree with the way in which the electoral situation in the state has been handled. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You have been a very savvy politician over the past 35 years of democracy. I think that those who thought you would not fight back were mistaken.

[Navarro] We have been fighting with the legal weapons we have available. Unfortunately, when we told CSE members that according to the law the CSE could not annul elections because that specific function is assigned to the Supreme Court of Justice, we were told not to bring up more laws because this is a political problem that requires a political solution. So you see, it is not a matter of applying the law, but a political game to divide two governorships between two circumstantial political partners.

[Reporter] Evidently, in addition to the legal problem, there is a political problem, which could be resolved with new elections in Sucre.

[Navarro] Yes, but elections should be held under clear rules. [passage omitted]

Economic Cabinet on Social Security Institute

PA0102223193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Interview with Julian Villalba, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, FIV, and Jorge (Kancov), Venezuelan Institute of Social Security, IVSS, reorganization board chairman by Milagros Rodriguez from Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Rodriguez] We are going to speak with Julian Villalba, Venezuelan Investment Fund president, one of the organizations involved with the financial situation of the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security. We would like to know what the possible solutions are for the IVSS deficit problem, those solutions discussed during the economic cabinet meeting.

[Villalba] A group of solutions was discussed. We discussed the possibility of increasing fee payments. We are determining whether this will be equivalent to four, five, or six minimum wages. [sentence as heard] We also discussed whether or not organizations such as the FIV and the Central Bank could expedite the issuance of bonds to finance the IVSS's reorganization.

As is publicly known, the FIV signed a contract establishing a trust fund with the IVSS and regulating the goals that must be met to improve efficiency, payment of personnel, and so forth. That is why we are involved in that contract.

[Rodriguez] Why has the sale of these bonds in the financial market been delayed? The sale was scheduled to begin once Congress approved a law on public credit.

[Villalba] There are several reasons, some of which have nothing to do with the financial market. Bear in mind what it means to sign 40,000 bonds, each one worth 1 million bolivares. That took about 15 days to do. In addition, the market conditions are not particularly good at this time. Some of those bonds will probably have to be sold at a discount price. We are also considering the possibility of using those bonds to pay some of the upset IVSS suppliers directly.

These negotiations are being conducted at this time, and those bonds were ready 15 days ago.

[Rodriguez] How much is actually going to be allotted to the IVSS so that services will not collapse?

[Villalba] The IVSS actually needs 39 billion bolivares. I do not know if that will be enough. Everything will depend on other conditions which we cannot control such as inflation, the costs of imported medications, and so forth.

[Rodriguez] When do you expect these resources to be available for the IVSS?

[Villalba] Right away, with the issuance of the bonds. Other funds will be available in about 15 days. In addition, other operations are underway so that the public entities will pay their debts to the IVSS.

[Rodriguez] We thank FIV President Julian Villalba for announcing some of the solutions to prevent the IVSS's collapse. We are also going to interview Jorge (Kancov), chairman of the IVSS reorganization board. He will give us details of what you have just proposed.... [pauses] The FIV president has just reported on some possible solutions to prevent the IVSS's collapse. Are these going to be enough?

[(Kancov)] Well, we feel these are enough if we manage to sell the public debt bonds as soon as possible. On the other hand, we must increase the ceiling for fee payments. For 23 years, the IVSS has practically had a ceiling of 3,000 bolivares, preventing us from absorbing inflation.

The Executive Branch has ordered those enterprises of the public sector which have not paid their IVSS fees to be punished according to the tax laws. The tax laws even

call for penal sanctions against public sector administrators found stealing workers' monies. They discount their fee from the workers' pay and then neglect to pay the IVSS.

[Rodriguez] Have you figured out the amount of the debt these enterprises owe the IVSS?

[(Kancov)] We are analyzing the public sector debt. This, together with the debts of the governors' and mayors' offices, as well as the autonomous entities, represents approximately 22 billion bolivares. We are working on this in detailed form in order to notify each enterprise of the amount due so they will pay as soon as possible and avoid punishment.

[Rodriguez] We thank Jorge (Kancov), president chairman of the IVSS reorganization board, for this important information on the promise by the national government to assist the IVSS. This was a live report from Miraflores Presidential Palace.

* Intellectuals, Artists, Composer on Foiled Coup

93SM0106B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p C10

[Report by Hugo Colmenares, Yasmin Monsalve, Eloi Yague, and Zayira Arenas; first paragraph is EL NACIONAL introduction]

[Text] Intellectuals of various ideological persuasions and artists working in different fields of expression repudiated yesterday's new coup attempt by part of the Armed Forces, and appealed for the use of nonviolent methods to solve the problems of democracy.

Juan Nuno, Philosopher and Essayist

"In the first place, the coup instigators were inept, as Curzio Malaparte wrote a book on "Coup Technique." They were unable to do something so easy. Secondly, they were not very brave, calling for public ministry prosecutors when they gave up, but not when rising up and taking Mecedores. In the third place, the popular reaction was quite serious. The people are not as foolish as they are said to be, and they do not allow themselves to be led into crazy adventures. I am not sure whether that is love of democracy, or just common sense. And from the very beginning, this smelled like a foolish adventure."

Juan Carlos Santaella, Essayist and Literary Critic

"As a writer, I must be concerned about what is happening politically in this country. I believe that now more than ever before the Venzuelan writer must shoulder his responsibility for what is going on, taking a strong, clear position without ambiguity, a position of open support for the democratic freedoms founded on the freedom of expression that has always characterized the writer's creative work. That is the position a writer must adopt in this country."

Jesus Soto, Plastic Artist

"I felt terrible panic when I saw the military on television. It seemed that all that was true and I felt very sad." This well-known creative artist said that he remains one of those who think, along with Churchill, that even though democracy may be the best of a group of poor political systems, he prefers it with all its defects. "Now I am calmer because our democratic institutions have been saved, but the politicians must take this as a lesson. We want changes, but not through violence. There is a lot to be done to transform the Venezuelan political system." He thinks that the lesson which the people have given must be heeded in order to continue to pursue a democratic course, which is the best of what exists. "They have to realize that the people are demanding improvements in their standard of living."

Roman Chalbaud, Film and Television Director

"Waking up at 0600 and seeing Chavez on television talking about a patriotic junta that will soon lead the country is certainly an unusual way to start the day. Waiting for that patriotic junta that never appears begins to give a touch of suspense to this long morning, and with the television showing in its dots and lines some stupidity going on in the distance, all that does add some intrigue. Being surprised because this day carried by Televen reaches glorious heights of emotion, with people beginning to appear (live forces, as they are called), and then there are planes that almost land in my apartment while Paulina Gamus is saying that nothing is happening. I try to go out, but they suspend civil protections. Everything is so sad. I think of the innocent dead on both sides and turn off the television. But the planes keep on flying overhead."

Maria Teresa Castillo, President of the Caracas Athenaeum

"I am horrified. I really believe that while these people may think they are improving things, they are making Venezuela's situation worse. How is it possible that such an event, which is a great mistake, can happen on the eve of elections, which are a manifestation of democracy? Things are never solved at gunpoint. It seems to me that this was a few crazies setting off bombs and terrifying the population. In this way they are losing the prestige they might possibly have had at some moment. Instead they have awakened all the antipathy of the citizens. It is useless to carry out an action of this type when there is really no chance of winning. What is the point of it, I wonder. I am surprised by the clumsiness of these people who did not know how to pull back in time. What has happened is inconceivable and against the interests of the people. I believe one can disagree with the government and protest, but an action of this type is not the way. Change comes through voting, and so I urge all the Venezuelan people to turn out and vote."

Jose Ignacio Cabrujas, Writer and Theater Director

"Right now at 1345, I feel shame. I am embarrassed, ashamed of living in this situation, caught between some people who want to save us, the Venezuelan people, in the name of the thoughts of Simon Bolivar and Ezequiel Zamora—19th century thoughts—and a corrupt government, a government of bandits who claim to be defending democracy, who say they represent democracy. First of all, I do not want to be saved by anybody, I do not want them to save me, I do not want to wake up at 0500 and see these "saviors." Nor do I accept this government which claims to be the defender of democracy. That is an absolute farce. This government is just as illegal as the people who today tried to conspire against it. The only solution for the nation at this moment is for this government to give up and go away, to retire, and turn it over to the winners, to a country that is fed up with corruption and hypocrisy. I am not staying outside the fray at this moment through fear, but because what is happening is not my struggle, it has nothing to do with me. I scorn this government and I consider it responsible for this tragic situation which the Venezuelan people are experiencing, while at the same time I say that these rebel officers have no grounds or basis for claiming to be saviors of this country. Moreover, I vehemently denounce the stupid decree the government has just issued suspending freedom of expression in this country. It is a decree that shows just how little this government values democracy. I am making this statement to express my solidarity with the journalists who in the morning during the broadcast RADIO RUMBOS experienced, in the hearing of the entire population, one of the most tragic, most regrettable, and saddest episodes we have ever had."

Inocente Carreno, Composer and Orchestra Director

"I am disturbed and really disappointed because in our country, almost at the dawn of the year 2000, we have gone back to a practice that had been left in oblivion: taking up arms against a constitutional government that it has taken so long to create. We artists are the human beings who most strongly value freedom. For example, in the former Soviet Union the first to rise up against the system were artists, musicians, poets, and writers, and now that that system has fallen, in our developing country attempts are being made to set up a regime with unknown aims. I want to say that I support constitutional order, no matter what president may be in office, and over and above the defects of democracy that we all know."

Rodolfo Santana, Playwright and Director

"What happened is the result of our politicians being unable to see and respond to the calls for reforms in a number of institutions in recent years. Their claim to be defending democracy is not valid in a country where reforms have been demanded in the judiciary and in the political and electoral systems. We still have political corruption. How can an action caused by the politicians' refusal to create a true democracy in the country be condemned?"

Pedro Diaz Seijas, Linguistic Academician

He feels that "the first thing to be done in Venezuela is to change the country's officials, using the weapon of conscience when voting. I do not believe in violence. We are sustained by the ideological process that the people demand. The people cannot go out with rifles to seek rivers of blood. Venezuela cannot repeat the tragedy of the 19th century. We have to defend democracy and either change or support our leaders and politicians' programs, acting through civilized convictions."

Angela Zago, Writer and Journalism Teacher

"If democracy really existed in this country, we would not be going through today's situation. I believe that the main subversives are the nation's political leaders, especially those who are governing. Obviously, all this demonstrates that if the basic problems democracy must deal with were solved, that would leave no foothold for such an uprising. I do not know how many calls for attention will be needed before the leaders will understand what is going on."

Gustavo Arnstein, Secretary of the National Council of Culture

"A person does not know what he has until it slips through his fingers. On 4 February and on 27 November 1992, as citizens of this singular nation, we were very close, right on the edge of the precipice, to sinking under this feeling of frustration. We were so close to losing democracy that there was no time to realize what that would mean for the nation's life: passing from a hustle and bustle to silence, from tumultuous activity to forced immobility, from talking back to submission. Suffering democracy, with its disputes and its unexpected verdicts will always be better than enjoying those lost edens that will never appear, that have always been painted for us from time immemorial by the adventurers of destiny, those who take the fate of other people into their own hands, but without running risks themselves, for they really do not know what is their own. May we never exchange the ups and downs of our free will for a tranquility imposed fraudulently and unfairly."

Hector Malave Mata, Economist and Researcher

"Yesterday's events provide a clear demonstration of the crisis that is affecting Venezuelan society in almost every area. The precarious stability of this government has been cracked, and we can see an enormous lack of popular support. This is also a sign of a regime which has found no solutions to the nation's serious social problems because it has concentrated its efforts in a single direction which is incompatible with major national interests. There is no doubt that the military insurgency showed that it has popular support, and that support exists because a vast majority of the Venezuelan people

are convinced that the government of President Carlos Andres Perez is on the wrong track, a track that will lead to annihilation of principles and values. Prospects of recovery compatible with the true demands of the people must be sought."

Denzil Romero, Novelist and Attorney

He said that, as a profession of faith, he is prepared to fight for democracy, "even though I am very upset with President Carlos Andres Perez and his government. But in no case will I accept Venezuela's turning back. I reject the military uprising. It is appalling to think in what sort of hands we might fall. We cannot tolerate the messages of manipulation that the coup leaders showed on television. That video showing Chavez is old. The fight must be waged with dignity and respect for the battle. I am very angry. I will not support criminals who wake me up in the morning to tell me lies. I am furious about this."

* Catholic Church Condemns Coup Violence

93SM0106A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p C10

[First paragraph is EL DIARIO DE CARACAS introduction]

[Text] The Archbishop of Caracas has issued an official statement supporting the democratic system. "It is not with violence that the changes the country needs will be achieved."

The Archbishop of Caracas, Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun, condemned the use of violence during Friday's coup attempt, and reiterated the Catholic Church's support for the constitutional system; he appealed to the citizens to vote in the municipal elections, "in this way sending a message that we continue to believe in democracy."

The official statement released by the office of the Archbishop of Caracas states that nothing could justify the deaths of the victims of this outburst against democratic order, for "it is not with violence that the changes the country needs will be achieved. The difficult times we are living in grow worse when dialogue is forgotten and bullets are used to try to achieve what we urgently need to do: every day, with everyone's participation, to seek a national understanding that will bring about a true end to this crisis."

Lebrun said: "The nation demands our cooperation. We must be honest and loyal, we must obey the legitimate authorities we have chosen democratically, we must respect the rights of others and act so that our behavior to others will be what we would like ourselves, based on the fundamental values of human dignity."

The Church's statement expresses the clergy's solidarity with the families of those who were killed and wounded, whose precise numbers have not yet been determined.

Jose Ali Lebrun cited the Christian principles of love of one's neighbor, and called upon people to seek true ways to achieve peace and justice, truth, and brotherhood.

The Archbishop appealed to people to turn out for the elections, as in his view, that is the way to construct a more participatory democracy that will promote true personal development. "This is not the time for hatred or bitterness," said Lebrun.

* Editorials Focus on Aftermath of Coup Attempt

* Chavez Myth Explodes

93SM0105A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 1 Dec 92 p 3

[Report by Italo Pizzolante Negron]

[Text] Of all yesterday's deaths the most important, in my view, was that of Hugo Chavez, the man who on 4 February spoke "long enough to attract attention, but briefly enough so there would be no mistake." As I commented in an international speech in recent months, the image of Chavez inevitably had to confront his true identity. What could have been a sustained political plan, in a supposed new message (?) and a different style of communication, vanished with the sickening cruelty of his followers on the morning of 27 November. The identity of a man or an enterprise—when unknown—is judged by the behavior of the people accompanying him. Not communicating is communicating precisely that one does not want to communicate, and that leads to speculation, lies converted into solid truths for many who saw in Chavez their expression of protest. But killing innocent working parents and comrades in arms—including some who were immobilized, handcuffed; bombing urban areas filled with women and children, abandoning the troops when they were at the forefront of the battle, and fleeing cowardly, without supporting those who mistakenly believed in a "salvation for the nation" and then not having a "message to communicate" or "spokesmen capable of expressing it": all this shows the entire nation that the crisis has no "messiah" and that the myth was just that, a myth...and nothing more.

The "death of Chavez" yesterday is a pragmatic, historic, and decisive event, over and above the coup attempt. Perez is now leaving center stage and becoming just one more participant. The main protagonist of "yesterday's film" was the people. An unanswered invitation to demonstrate in the streets, to fight the government and topple the system, issued in the desperate losing voice of a tiny group of irresponsible people who, cruelly attacking one of the communications media filled with honest professionals, believed that the country was the same as it was on 23 January 1958: euphoric, filled with both hope and rage. The only similarity with 27 November is that yesterday we were again furious about "unpunished corruption." But we were also outraged, concerned, and disturbed by the behavior of a handful of irresponsible people who spread terror with automatic

weapons and combat planes. Now, 34 years after 1958, we are more intent upon preserving our legitimate right to freely express ideas and to choose the best, to tell everyone that we want to freely and democratically choose. Today we are more educated and more sceptical. Our experience with democracy has given us maturity—the mother of tranquility—and judgment—the child of knowledge.

Yesterday's events, beyond the death of innocent people, made clear that it is better to wait in a poor hospital and be cared for by doctors in a makeshift manner than to receive at home a bombshell that destroys a family, that it is better to store water in leaky buckets than to meet death wearing a military uniform, that it is better to keep on questioning and opposing corrupt people than to be called upon to take part in a civil struggle and then be cowardly abandoned by the supposed "leaders." That it is better to continue listening to the lies of politicians during campaigns than to accept an uncertain and confused invitation from three unknown people with obviously limited abilities—to our shame, this was seen on the entire world's television screens—to take part in a movement with fewer programs and projects than many candidates for mayor offer and with more social resentment than many candidates for council seats have. It is better to elect political candidates by slate than to have the SLATE imposed on me by Hugo Chavez. For in a democracy, I can write these thoughts I am sharing with you and I can use my vote—not bullets—to punish the behavior of people in the government.

One final thought: the big winner of the day was the people who gave an example of maturity by not taking to the streets; the big loser was Chavez with his myth and his henchmen; the major lesson: political decentralization. Note the clear difference between the country of the provinces and its leaders and the country of the capital. The big revelation: Fernando Martinhez Motola, the government's fresh and credible new spokesperson. The major absence: Arturo Uslar Pietri, whose inexplicable silence makes his preaching inconsistent. What was unexpected: CAP [Carlos Andres Perez] and his undeniable boost. The big challenge: the candidates for the nomination and their post-coup line. The major conclusion: Venezuela wants to live in a democracy. The great opportunity: to elect the best people on 6 December.

* Perez Strengthened by Events

93SM0105B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 1 Dec 92 p 3

[Report by Anibal Romero]

[Text] The foiled 27 November coup has had and will have repercussions quite different from those of 4 February. To go straight to the heart of the issue: many Venezuelans viewed last February's events with sympathy; this time, though, the widespread reactions were amazement, horror, and repudiation. Those who tried to benefit opportunistically from what Chavez and his henchmen did a few months ago this time remained silent, or—like Caldera, the attorney representing the coup perpetrators—stammered some embarrassed commonplaces. In summary:

1. The violence, the obvious barbarity, the murders, the bombing of Caracas, the large number of innocent victims, and in general the crimes committed during the failed 27 November coup have practically destroyed Chavez and "chavismo" as a significant political force. The grotesque television appearance of those now dubbed the "three stooges," with their blend of primitivism, ignorance, sordidness, and emptiness, frightened people. Chavez will never be able to rid himself of the stain of last Friday's violence.

2. With their clumsiness and bloody cruelty, the coup perpetrators ended by shoring up CAP [Carlos Andres Perez] in power. I am convinced that while antipathy toward Perez and his government still remains intense, a majority of Venezuelan citizens have come to the realization that the road forward demands that we keep the current constitutional term until its end in 1994 and peacefully hold the elections scheduled for 1992 and 1993. The coup perpetrators made it clear that the alternatives are worse than what we have now, and that the premature departure of CAP by force entails risks that it would be crazy to take.

3. It has been seen that the "Nasserist" germ, "salvationist messianism" (disguised as "Bolivarism") and a heroic and simplistic version of politics has unfortunately spread throughout the Armed Forces. While I respect and admire the institutional position of the majority of the officers and soldiers who are loyal to the constitution, I cannot close my eyes to the reality that this time many officers were involved, including a number of high-ranking officers. This is serious, and it is essential to analyze this problem in depth and to cleanse the Armed Forces of these messianic elements who are encouraged by civilian instigators, persons who completely lack any message, ignore the complexity of the nation's problems, but who have the audacity of their heroic convictions.

4. The "notables," lunatics, uselss fanatics, and others of their ilk—this entire league of losers experienced a severe setback last Friday. Just imagine what would have happened if the coup leaders had succeeded; we would have seen more than one self-important personality going to the gates of Miraflores to offer his "sacrifice to serve the Nation at this critical hour," etc., etc. With the shoring up of CAP in office, and the voters' realization of the true nature of the threat, all the proposals for resignation, shortening of the presidential term, referendum, constitutional assembly and others have faded and become merely idle talk. It is inevitable that Uslar Pietri will keep on talking, along with the rest of the self-important "notables," but his words will more and more go unheeded.

5. For Caldera, the attorney representing the coup perpetrators, what happened is not at all good. Just

remember his words on 4 February, excusing Chavez and trying to make demagogic use of these events: "There are attenuating circumstances," he said, "they have no bloodthirsty intentions." I for one have not forgotten, and I have carefully checked his statement. In this country with its short memory, last Friday's violence will certainly clear the minds of quite a few people. Caldera has been beaten, and I will dare to bet that 27 November marks for him the beginning of the end of his seventh quest to become president.

6. Events have proven right those who during the past months have been fighting for reason, for sense, for institutional stability, and against demagogues, the apocalyptic, the "notables," and angry people of every type and condition. I hope a great number of our compatriots have seen the light and have now put things in perspective. Maybe they will turn out to vote in large numbers. I hope they will recover their confidence in a better future, a future without messiahs and without violence. That is what I long for.